

Hafa Adai!

\$500 on Wednesday; \$1,000 on Friday. **PAGE 3**

Full steam ahead with collection efforts on Yutu OT pay. **PAGE 5**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## Two indicted for alleged visa fraud



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

» **More than 100 people allegedly victimized**

Special Agents with Homeland Security Investigations arrested two employees of a manpower agency on Saipan last Friday on charges of visa fraud and conspiracy, based on a warrant issued by the U.S District Court for the NMI.

Alejandro Nario, 65, and Mylene Casupanan, 42, both Filipino citizens, were taken into custody, without incident, for their involvement in a visa fraud scheme.

An HSI investigation found that A&A Enterprise petitioned and submitted false documents for more than 100

See **FRAUD** on **Page 4**

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6:54pm, July 12, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **66.9%**

Days since last community transmission **111**

#### Pfizer/BioNTech

Initiated: **25,944**  
Fully Vaccinated: **23,932**

#### Moderna

Initiated: **4,175**  
Fully Vaccinated: **3,938**

#### Janssen

Fully vaccinated: **476**

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,431	23	8,454
Recovered	8,190	22	8,212
Active	78	23	101
Deaths	141	0	141

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	185	0	185
Traced via Travel Screening	149	0	149
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Special Agents with Homeland Security Investigations arrest two employees of a manpower agency on Saipan last Friday.

## Auction of IPI assets OK'd

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI has granted USA Fanter Corp.'s request to auction off Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's assets to satisfy a court judgment of \$2.1 million.

Over the weekend, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the court clerk to issue a writ of execution in favor of USA Fanter in the full amount of the amended judgment on vehicles and casino gaming machines owned by IPI that were identified in USA Fanter's ap-

See **AUCTION** on **Page 4**

## Driver in accident arrested for DUI

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The driver of the pickup truck that hit a pedestrian over the weekend had been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to Department

of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, responding officer at the scene last Saturday morning got a whiff of what smelled like alcohol coming from Vincent Agulto, 28, the driver of the Toyota Tacoma that collided with the pedestrian.

After failing a sobriety test, DPS officers immediately arrested Agulto and brought him to the Department of Corrections.

A source from the Department of Corrections said that Agulto had already been

See **DRIVER** on **Page 4**

## Survey lists Top 3 news sources, most trusted

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
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REPORTER

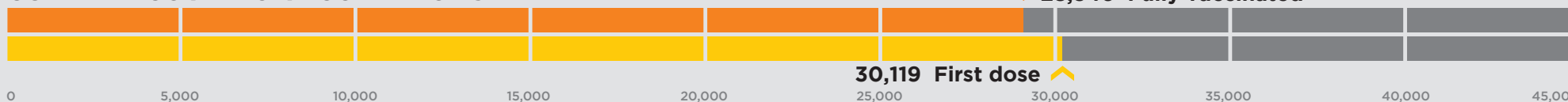
An online survey the Northern Marianas Humanities Council

held in October to November last year on news consumption and the perceived trustworthiness of mass media in the CNMI showed that the top

three most used news sources are *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, and KSPN Channel 2. The most trustworthy? KSPN.

See **SURVEY** on **Page 4**

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



### INSIDE



**LOCAL**  
Tinian will be welcoming visitors to the island's first-ever Beef, Beer and Bands Festival.

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**NATION**  
Firefighters working in searing heat struggle to contain the largest wildfire in California.

**PAGE 13**



**ASIA**  
The Biden administration rejects nearly all of China's maritime claims in the South China Sea.

**PAGE 14**



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**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



# Local



Joeten Motors Co. donates a boat engine worth \$5,000 to Tasi to Table's raffle "Reel in the Holidays" slated for December 2021. From left, Ray "Boss" Alvarez (JMC sales manager), Calvin Yamagishi (JMC service manager), and Gene Weaver and Normie Cania from TTT.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Bridge Capital donates \$4,000 to Tasi to Table. From left, Gene Weaver, Normie Cania, Julie Duenas and Bart Jackson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**670.235-NEWS (6397)**

## Businesses donate \$4,500 cash; boat engine worth \$5,000 to Tasi to Table

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Multiple businesses recently stepped up to the plate for Tasi to Table Inc.'s purpose and future endeavors, with either cash donations or prize donations to TTT's raffle "Reel in the Holidays," which is slated to happen in December.

Bridge Capital, LLC donated \$4,000; law firm Torres Brothers, LLC donated \$500; Joeten Motors Company donated a boat engine, and Universal Rentals promised to support TTT during any event in which they will need tents and tables.

Bridge Capital vice president Bart Jackson said in a statement that the company sees the long-term benefits of Tasi to Table's programs for the CNMI's youth and the community. "It's a great honor to be associated with Tasi to Table. This is an entity that benefits the community in so

many ways through the support of local culture and traditions, empowerment of the CNMI's youth and reaching beyond Saipan to Tinian and Rota. It's the kind of organization that we want to support," said Jackson.

The Joeten Motors Co.'s donation of a 20-horsepower Yamaha Tiller boat engine worth \$5,000 will be paired with a 14-foot Morning Star boat and trailer that was provided by Coral Reef Marine Center Guam and Morning Star Boats. The boat, engine, and many other prizes worth thousands of dollars donated to TTT by Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, IT&E, Marpac Distributors, Mobil Oil Marianas, Roil Soil Clothing, and 4EVER CNMI will be up for grabs in TTT's December raffle.

According to TTT vice president Wayne Pangelinan, raffle tickets for the event will be out soon once TTT finalizes the details of the event.



Torres Brothers LLC donates \$500 to Tasi to Table. From left, Matt Holley, Gene Weaver, Jacqueline T. Torres, and Jack Torres.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## 'ROAD TO 80' RAFFLE TERMS AND CONDITIONS EXPLAINED

### \$500 on Wednesday; \$1,000 on Friday

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

As part of the first wave of cash prizes for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign "Road to 80," a total of \$1,500 will be given to two lucky raffle entrants. On Wednesday, \$500 will be given to one randomly chosen person who has liked the "Road to 80" Facebook page and likes, and shares a specific post on the page. On Friday, \$1,000 will be given to one randomly chosen person who has received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, or has received the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine.

The post for Wednesday's raffle can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/road-to80cnmi>.

Based on the terms and conditions for the vaccination campaign, those eligible for the many raffle prizes that are up for grabs are everyone in the CNMI that:

- Has received their first or single vaccine dosage;
- has registered online at [vaccinatecnmi.com](https://vaccinatecnmi.com); and has

fulfilled both requirements before Aug. 27 11:59pm.

The campaign will run from July 12 to Aug. 28.

This means that those who have already been vaccinated in the CNMI are already automatically entered in the raffle. According to CHCC's vaccination dashboard, as of July 12, around 30,000 individuals qualify for the thousands of dollars in raffle prizes.

Winners will be contacted through phone and email using information provided on [vaccinatecnmi.com](https://vaccinatecnmi.com). If a winner does not respond within 72 hours of the first time they were contacted, a new winner will be chosen. To claim their prizes, winners will have to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated. Those who received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine need to show proof that they have received the second dose of the vaccines, while those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccines simply need to show proof that they have already received their single shots.

Once a week for seven weeks, beginning this Friday, one individual will be chosen at random to receive cash prizes. From weeks one to seven, the weekly cash prizes are as follows: \$1,000; \$1,500; \$2,000; \$2,500; \$3,000; \$3,500; \$4,000.

The winners of the grand prizes of the Road to 80 campaign will be announced at the Taste of the Marianas main stage on Aug. 28, and will feature four prizes: a \$2,500 "Bonus Draw," a \$5,000 "Mini-Grand" prize, a \$15,000 "Grand Prize," and a 2020 Nissan Rogue Sport sports utility vehicle.

The campaign is made possible through a joint effort of the CNMI Office of the Governor, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Joeten Enterprises Inc., Marianas Visitors Authority, Bridge Capital, LLC, and TanHoldings.

Those interested in getting vaccinated can register and schedule an appointment online at [vaccinatecnmi.com](https://vaccinatecnmi.com) or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).

## Manglona, DeLeon Guerrero: What now on our bills intended to address IPI's problems?

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) have urged the Senate leadership to act on their two legislations that they say will address the financial concerns surrounding Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino, which they said is in a constant state of both financial and physical deterioration.

Manglona and DeLeon Guerrero wrote a joint let-

ter last week to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, expressing concern over the apparent lack of action and urgency to act on their Senate Bill 22-23 and Senate Joint Resolution 22-01. As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from Hofschneider.

The senators said the intent and provisions of the two legislations outline the steps needed to resolve the casino's financial quagmire.

Senate Bill 22-23 seeks to authorize the Commonwealth Lottery Commission to issue

a second casino license in the event that IPI's exclusive casino license is revoked by the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

Senate Joint Resolution 22-01 will request Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to instruct the CNMI representative on the Development Plan Advisory Committee to immediately provide a report to the Legislature on the casino projects.

The senators introduced Senate Bill 22-23 last Feb. 11; it was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

**See MANGLONA on Page 4**

## FBI to public: Report hate crimes

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is engaged in a nationwide effort to build public awareness of hate crimes and encourage reporting to law enforcement.

Hate crimes are the highest priority of the FBI's civil rights program. They are not only an attack on the victim; they are meant to threaten and intimidate an entire community.

"Hate crimes are the top priority within the FBI's Civil Rights Program, due to the devastating impact these types of crimes have on communities. One act can terrorize entire communities and groups of people," said FBI associate deputy director Jeffrey Sallet. "There's simply no place in this country for hate and intolerance.

We in the FBI stand ready to use all the tools at our disposal to reduce the threat of hate crimes and fulfill our mission to protect every American."

The FBI is the lead investigative agency for criminal violations of federal civil rights statutes. The bureau works closely with its local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement partners in many of these cases, even when federal charges are not pursued. The FBI also works to detect and prevent incidents through law enforcement training, public outreach, and partnerships with community groups.

The FBI defines a hate crime as a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part

by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity."

The FBI works to protect all victims of crimes, regardless of their country of national origin or immigration status. The FBI encourages victims and witnesses of any hate-related incident to report it to law enforcement. After a report is submitted, the FBI will work with its law enforcement partners and use its resources and expertise to determine if an incident meets the criminal standard.

If you believe you are victim or a witness of a hate crime, we encourage you to report it to the FBI by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI or submitting a tip at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov). You may remain anonymous. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS 07/13/2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after July 28, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of existing/collapsed Vitrified Clay Pipe (VCP) sewer line with a new SDR 35 PVC pipe. The replacement of existing/collapsed VCP sewer line runs from Apengagh St. and Wischira Way (Oleai Village) as well as replacement of two sewer manholes.	Oleai Sewer Line Replacement Project	San Jose, Saipan	Approximately \$469,000.00

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) or [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com); or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp). All comments received by **July 28, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at [Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov); Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ **Ralph DLG Torres**  
Governor, CNMI



## WITH CHILDREN AT HOME DURING SUMMER

## NAP urged to distribute P-EBT coupons now

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Pointing out that many children are at home right now for the summer break and with many families lacking the financial means to replenish their food supplies, Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) is requesting Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas to start distributing now the Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer program coupons instead of doing it by

next month.

DeLeon Guerrero urged Macaranas in a recent letter to use his discretionary decision to distribute the P-EBT coupons now in part or in lump sum sooner than NAP's August target.

It being summer time, schools are closed and many children are at home, she said. This means family's food expenses are often much higher and funds are depleted much faster, she said, which means most likely parents are not able to replenish their

food supplies due to lack of financial means.

"We call can agree that thousands of families will feel more at ease and relieved that they need not struggle or worry where the next meal is going to come from while the children are home during the summer," DeLeon Guerrero said.

She said pricing of food commodities are not inflated right now, thereby giving families more buying power and market shelves being empty is avoided.

The senator said local revenues through monthly Business Gross Revenue Tax will also be generated from increased consumer sales.

She said her office has been receiving complaints from families affected by the extended time for the benefits to be paid out

P-EBT is a federal program that will provide the Marianas an estimated \$11.1 million.

Macaranas earlier stated that over 11,000 children are estimated to benefit from the program based on the terms of the rosters that were provided in the beginning.

## SURVEY

From Page 1

Among social media behemoths, the most trusted source of CNMI news is YouTube.

This was learned last Friday, July 9, during the first of four webinars that NMHC is hosting on the topic of news use and perceptions in the CNMI. Dubbed the "Minagâhet – Ellet Series" NMHC hopes to provide the community with more insight on how news is consumed in the CNMI. Together with Thomas Manglona II, University of Guam associate professor of journalism Dr. Francis Dalisay kicked off the series with Dalisay presenting findings from the NMHC survey and Manglona doing a presentation on regional news coverage.

Dalisay cautioned, though that the online NMHC survey results are only representative of those who completed the survey. This means that the survey's results can not be used in predictions or statements about the general public's news consumption or perceived trustworthiness of CNMI news sources.

Dalisay said that NMHC received 481 completed surveys, with 93% of respondents living on Saipan and around 6% said that they were from Tinian or Rota. Around two-thirds of respondents were women and almost half of all respondents were Chamorro. Some limitations of the study included the underrepresentation of males and Filipinos.

When asked which media source was most used by the respondents, this was measured in the survey with a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "never," 3 being "sometimes," and 5 being "all the time." The respondents' top three most used news sources were *Saipan Tribune* (average score of 3.9), *Marianas Variety* (3.85), and KSPN Channel 2 (2.89).

## MANGLONA

From Page 3

They introduced Joint Resolution 22-01 last March 11.

Manglona and DeLeon Guerrero stated in the letter that IPI acting chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul wrote the Legislature last Feb. 9, stating several requests and recommendations for assistance to IPI.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission then suspended IPI's license on April 22 and imposed various fines due to the company's inability to pay all obligations in a timely manner.

The senators also noted that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently entered a \$5.91 million default judgment against IPI in favor of seven Chinese construction workers who were subjected to forced labor while working on IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan.

To find the three media sources that the respondents perceived as most trustworthy, respondents were asked to score sources on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "very untrustworthy," 3 being "neither untrustworthy or trustworthy" and 5 being "very trustworthy." The respondents' three most trustworthy sources were KSPN (average score of 3.87), *Saipan Tribune* (3.82), and *Marianas Variety* (3.71).

Dalisay noted that from first down to the 10th media source, there were very marginal differences in score, and all sources that were included in the survey had an average score at least above 3.

Other notable survey results that Dalisay shared was which social media was most used and most trusted by respondents in regards to getting CNMI news. According to the respondents, the most used social media for news was Facebook, and the most trustworthy source for CNMI news according to the respondents was YouTube.

Dalisay said the survey's results were in line with what would be expected if a similar study was conducted anywhere in the U.S. "For the most part, the respondents viewed these media [sources] as trustworthy. They do have some level of trust [in] local media, which is consistent with what goes on in the mainland and elsewhere in the U.S. Residents tend to trust their local news more so than national news," said Dalisay.

The second webinar in NMHC's "Minagâhet – Ellet Series" will be held over Zoom on July 16, starting at 11:30am. The upcoming webinar will welcome Dr. Francis Dalisay and Catherine Perry as guests, with the two talking about motivation for news consumption, media skepticism, and news media literacy. The community is welcome to attend, and can register for the event at [www.nmhccouncil.org/ellet2](http://www.nmhccouncil.org/ellet2).

They said several months have passed since their legislations were introduced as well as since Yumul's letter was sent to the Legislature.

The senators said people must be reminded of IPI's growing debts: \$400,000 annually in DPAC fees; \$3 million annually in CCC regulatory fee; \$57 million in Community Benefit Fund; \$15.5 million in annual casino license fee; \$800,000 in future wages via escrow; \$9.4 million in Business Gross Revenue Tax; and other outstanding liabilities and fees including back wages.

Manglona and DeLeon Guerrero said they are hoping the Senate can come together to establish a plan to respond to Yumul's letter and to lead in addressing the needs of this casino industry.

The senators said IPI must address all complaints of unpaid wages, labor abuses, substandard staff housing, unpaid contractors, and other problems with workers and the construction of its gaming facility.

## AUCTION

From Page 1

plication for writ of execution.

Manglona also ordered IPI to maintain the registration, insurance, and maintenance of all the vehicles and casino game machines subject to the execution of the writ.

"All vehicles and gaming machines shall be stored either in the underground parking lot of IPI's hotel-casino complex in Garapan, Saipan or in IPI's housing in Chinatown, Saipan," she ordered.

Back in June, USA Fanter asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI

to issue a writ of execution against IPI that essentially allows the plaintiffs to auction of IPI's vehicles and casino gaming machines in order to pay USA Fanter and satisfy the previous judgment entered against IPI. To date, the judgment remains unsatisfied in the amount of \$2,198,405.56 plus post-judgment interest, costs, and fees that have yet to be addressed.

Colin Thompson, who represents USA Fanter, noted in the application for writ that IPI owns and controls vehicles and casino gaming machines with an estimated value of \$3,241,484.

"USA Fanter requests the court to issue a writ of execution to have

the vehicles and casino gaming machines sold in an auction in order to pay USA Fanter and satisfy the judgment," he said.

Thompson also requested the court to set a hearing and to provide IPI with the opportunity to advance any applicable exemptions.

USA Fanter sued IPI for refusing to pay \$2.1 million for work completed under their construction contract.

Back in February, Manglona ruled in favor of USA Fanter against IPI in the amount of \$2,089,345.28.

Last May 26, the court amended the judgment and included a monetary judgment in the amount of \$2,089,345.28.

and an injured pedestrian on the ground beneath the front portion of the vehicle. The victim, identified in the DPS release as a 22-year-old, local male, was then transported to the Commonwealth Health Center to be admitted for observation.

After detecting a strong odor of alcohol from Agulto, officers at the scene administered a Standard Field Sobriety Test on him, after which he was arrested and taken to DPS for further DUI processing.

As of yesterday, the pedestrian is responsive and remains at CHC for observation. Meanwhile, the crash is still under investigation.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Agulto told responding Department of Fire and Emergency

Medical Services officers that it was dark and he did not see the pedestrian walking. The victim in the video appeared to be wearing dark-colored clothes.

DFEMS said the pedestrian sustained a laceration/puncture to the back of his head, abrasions on his lower back, a broken right ankle, abrasions on his forehead, a lacerated chin, abrasions on his left arm, and abrasions on both knees.

In its report, DFEMS officers said the pedestrian was pinned face down under the front end of the vehicle and was breathing. The DFEMS officers slightly lifted the front of the pickup truck while another put the vehicle on reverse to free the pedestrian.

## DRIVER

From Page 1

released from DOC custody as of yesterday.

Per standard procedure, DUI cases are treated as traffic cases and are released after 12 hours. Because the incident had no fatalities, the standard procedure was followed.

A DPS press release said that police officers were called to respond to an auto-pedestrian collision in Puerto Rico, Saipan at about 5:29am last Saturday.

At the scene, officers saw a red pickup truck on the northbound outer lane with extensive damage to the front portion of the vehicle

## FRAUD

From Page 1

foreign nationals using the CW-1 visa program of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The program allows CNMI employers to apply for permission to employ those who are ineligible to work under other nonimmigrant worker categories.

HSI agents also discovered that a significant number of the foreign workers were not given jobs once they arrived in CNMI and were instructed to pay A&A Enterprise for their employment taxes, which were based on fictitious wages.

Nario, the owner and president of a manpower agency called A&A Enterprises, was charged with one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits for allegedly petitioning CW-1 visas for non-existing employment for foreign nationals, and requiring them to pay taxes.

Casupanan is charged separately with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States for allegedly

conspiring with Nario in filing CW-1 petitions with USCIS.

The indictment against Nario stated that on or about Jan. 1, 2019, and continuing through or about Feb. 1, 2021, Nario sent out I-129CW petitions on behalf of foreign citizen beneficiaries to the USCIS California Service Center in Laguna Niguel, California.

"The I-129CW petitions included a contract of employment for these foreign citizens specifying the terms, hours, and wages to be paid to them when, in fact, the defendants did not intend to provide employment for these foreign citizens during their visa term in the United States," the indictment said.

In addition, the indictment also stated that after these foreign citizens were granted a CW-1 visa and entered the United States under false premises, the defendants required the foreign citizens to pay a routine tax of \$194 every two weeks to A&A Enterprises.

Nario and his confederates demanded these foreign citizens pay this tax, despite A&A Enterprises'

failure to provide employment as outlined in I-129CW petitions, and if no tax was paid, A&A Enterprises would cancel and not seek to renew the CW-1 visas.

An HSI press statement said that this was an HSI led investigation with significant cooperation from CNMI Department of Public Safety and CNMI Customs Service.

HSI is the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, responsible for investigating transnational crime and threats, specifically those criminal organizations that exploit the global infrastructure through which international trade, travel, and finance move. HSI's workforce of over 10,400 employees consists of more than 7,100 Special Agents assigned to 220 cities throughout the United States, and 80 overseas locations in 53 countries. HSI's international presence represents DHS' largest investigative law enforcement presence abroad and one of the largest international footprints in U.S. law enforcement.



# Manibusan: Full steam ahead with collection efforts on Yutu OT pay

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan assured Wednesday last week that his office is going full steam ahead with its collection efforts to pursue unlawful overtime that was paid out to some government officials after Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

Manibusan provided brief details about their collection efforts in response to Rep. Christina E. Sablan's (D-Saipan) questions at last week's hearing on the Office of the Attorney General's budget for fiscal year 2022 before the House Ways and Means Committee.

A copy of Manibusan's demand letter to one government official obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that the official was given no later than June 30, 2021, to contact his office to discuss return of the amounts owed the Commonwealth.

In that letter, Manibusan informed the government official that he is hopeful for an early resolution without resorting to time-consuming litigation.

Manibusan said in the letter that the compensation of work performed by government employees during a declared typhoon emergency depends on which employment category



Attorney General Edward Manibusan appears with other Office of the Attorney General's officials last week for OAG's budget hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

they belong. Non-civil service employees, including Executive Branch heads, resident department heads, members of boards, commissions, councils, and gubernatorial appointees such as Cabinet members are not covered for emergency typhoon pay, he added, nor is there any statute authorizing extra payment for typhoon emergency work.

This mean that even if Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' directives were intended to authorize such payment to these exempted employees, there is no legal basis for doing so, Manibusan said.

When asked how many

demand letters have gone out, Manibusan said they are working with the Office of the Public Auditor and that he does not remember how many such letters had been sent.

"We're still not even halfway there. We are still reviewing the other parts of the report," he added, without elaborating.

When asked if any monies had been paid back or collected at this point or if it is still too early to say that, Manibusan only replied, "Early."

He agreed with Sablan that OPA did actually provide a report to their office of officials that have been identified as

having received these funds but he said he does not recall how many officials were identified in the OPA report.

Sablan asked if it would be possible to get a copy of that OPA report, but the AG said it's better that she gets the report from OPA.

With respect to the OAG's budget, Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the OAG initially requested a \$2.8-million budget for fiscal year 2022. Considering the proposed general fund and the American Rescue Plan Act, the OAG stands to receive an additional half a million dol-

lars, Manglona said.

"This is something that we will want to do here to see what the plans are for the additional half a million and provide any clarifying questions that committee members may

have," Manglona added.

Manibusan said their fiscal year 2022 budget submission took into account the governor's budget call that estimated the government's net resources at \$96.5 million. He said they submitted a budget request in the amount of \$2.8 million and that's consistent with what they were budgeted in fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

"In the current year, right now, our budget is at \$2.1 million," Manibusan said.

He said their primary goal in fiscal year 2022 is to fill all vacancies and add five other positions. The He said they have seen an increasing number of legal services requests and that they have a number of agencies that they represent.

"We have agencies that we do represent within the Executive Branch and so our work has actually increased," he said.

## Water hours for select areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is reminding its customers that the following scheduled water hours are in effect for the As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag areas:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6am to 6pm
- Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: 24-hours

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates <https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>. (PR)



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

## PUBLIC NOTICE

*(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)*  
**July 13, 2021**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Arnold I. Palacios, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Annual Community Assessment (ACA) Report for Program Year 2019 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 27, 2021. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, on or before August 3, 2021. The ACA encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The report is available on NMHC's website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) and at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman of the Board



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016

### SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A 1.5 MW TRAILER MOUNTED DIESEL GENERATING SET WITH ENCLOSURE FOR THE CUC POWER PLANT NO. 3, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than July 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

A Proposal Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to CUC's Water Utility Coordinator, Yvonne C. Ogunmoro via email address [yvonne.ogunmoro@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.ogunmoro@cucgov.org), CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address [richard.cano@cucgov.org](mailto:richard.cano@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator





## CONFIRMED

Senators pose with newly confirmed Commerce Secretary Edward M. Deleon Guerrero and Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board director Isidro K. Seman after the senators confirmed the two's executive appointments last Thursday at the Senate chamber. All nine senators voted "yes" to adopt the report of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments & Government Investigations that recommended the confirmation of the executive appointments of Deleon Guerrero and Seman.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

# Flores asks why House JGO Committee is sitting on his bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan) asked during the House of Representatives' session last week why the House's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta is sitting on his bill that he introduced last February.

During the miscellaneous business portion of the session, Flores asked for an update on the status of his House Bill 22-3 that he introduced during the House's first session. The bill seeks to amend the Commonwealth Code by requiring the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration expiration.

Flores complained that up to this day there's no action

from the JGO Committee and that he wants an explanation as to its status.

Flores said he is wondering if there is any controversy regarding this bill, which is, according to him, a recycled legislation that was passed by the previous House. He said he does not know the reason why the JGO is holding up this bill. He requested floor leader Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) to schedule it for bill calendar for the next session.

Babauta said they are proceeding cautiously in the JGO Committee as they are still waiting for comments. Babauta said she has spoken with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and that she was told it does not support this bill.

She said there's no research conducted and that even the Office of the Attorney General

has not commented on it.

"There's nothing that this bill proposes to fix. There's nothing broken with the current system. We are prioritizing certain bills. Even my bills are in my committee," Babauta said.

She said it's not like they are picking sides or picking bills that they want to pass.

At this time, Babauta said, the stakeholder most affected by that bill does not support it, saying they do not have the supplies to support that legislation at this point.

"That's what they have told me. And I'm trying to get their written comments and I don't know what's the hold up. They haven't provided written comments but I have spoken with them," she said.

Flores said this bill intends to have vehicle registration ex-

pirations coincide with the expiration of vehicle liability insurance. "It's...to make it easy for everybody," Flores said.

He believes that, by mirroring the two expirations of such necessary requirements in operating a vehicle, all motorists will be protected and covered from any unforeseeable circumstances that may cause serious financial and/or physical strains.

Flores, who is a former police officer, said he does not understand why the Bureau of Motor Vehicles does not support the bill. He said it's been a practice for some to register their cars and renew their car insurance, and as soon as they register their vehicles, they go and terminate their insurance because the cars are registered already.

"This will actually give the

BMV benefit to hire personnel to...catch those motor vehicles that are unregistered," he said.

Flores said motor vehicles nowadays are registered for one year but the insurance is registered for six months. "This bill will make it [expiration] coincide for the whole year," he said.

Flores said this bill will provide options to motorists and allow them to choose whether they are in favor of paying a one-time fee and changing the renewal registrations dates on their other vehicles.

"I don't see why we keep waiting for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Let's just move on and let's put this on the table. If it fails, it fails. We'll not be waiting until Christmas," Flores said.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) then

called for a quick recess.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) noted that JGO is still waiting for written comments from BMV and other things. "It's not like that the committee hasn't done anything," Rep. Christina Sablan said.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) said the committee's normal practice is that they solicit comments and give a deadline. "And if we don't receive, then it's a policy call for us," he pointed out.

Rep. Celina Babauta asked what's the urgency about this bill. "What is to stop a motorist from registering the car insurance in two months because it expires in two months. It doesn't fix anything!" Rep. Celina Babauta said.

Rep. John Paul Sablan cited the bill's importance to those with more than two vehicles. "Let's say you have five vehicles. On one time a year, who does not like that? You want to go February, March, April and keep registering your five vehicles?" Rep. John Paul Sablan said.

Villagomez said Flores made it clear he wants to see action on his bill, whether it passes the House or not. He said Flores asked to put it on calendar for action for the next session.

"We don't have to place it on calendar in this session for next session. We can do that even after we adjourn. We can place that on the next agenda," said the speaker as he asked Flores and JGO members to discuss the matter.

Rep. John Paul Sablan said it's fair enough.

Villagomez asked Flores to discuss the matter with JGO and then put it on calendar for the next session.

After the session resumed, Villagomez announced that during the recess they settled the issue that Flores raised and that this will be further discussed after that session.

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147  
Website: www.developcnmi.com

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

**PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**AGENDA**

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Minutes
    - 1. May 22, 2021
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
  - A. DCD Financial Status
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Loan Matters
    - 1. Roma's Rental
    - 2. Lucille T. Ayuyu & Joseph Omar
    - 3. Jackary John A. Ogo
    - 4. Jerad & Francine Atalig
    - 5. Richard Taisacan
    - 6. MB Sablan Realty, LLC
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA  
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

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## INVITATION TO BID

# ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-128

**SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 16, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.**

## “LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO [epi.cabrera@gov.mp](mailto:epi.cabrera@gov.mp).

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.  
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE MATTER )  
OF THE PETITION )  
TO APPOINT )  
GENERAL )  
GUARDIANSHIP )  
FOR NEVEAH )  
BELLE SELBART, )  
Minor Child, )  
By: ANTONIA )  
ALDAN, )  
Petitioner. )

**CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 21-0203**

**NOTICE OF  
HEARING  
FOR PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT  
OF GENERAL  
GUARDIANSHIP**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Court will hear Petitioner's Petition for Appointment of General Guardianship for the above matter on November 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

SO ORDERED this 12th day of July, 2021.

HON. TERESA KIM-TENORIO  
Associate Judge



# Tinian's first-ever Beef, Beer & Bands Festival set for August

Where's the beef? Only on Tinian!

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and the people of Tinian will be welcoming visitors and tourists to the island's first-ever Beef, Beer and Bands Festival scheduled for Friday, Aug. 13, and Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Tinian fiesta grounds.

The festival is a highlight event following the official certification of the municipality's new slaughterhouse, the Kualidat Meat Processing Center, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently inspected and certified.

The Tinian BBB Festival will highlight the island's local beef and cattle industry, of which Tinian is known for, much like its hot peppers, which are the highlight of another Tinian event, the annual Pika Festival.

The TBBBF will highlight Tinian beef through a variety of vendors serving up traditional chasers and entrees. The first-ever Tinian Top Chef will be the event's signature competitive event where top chefs in the Marianas will compete to gain the title and represent their establishments. Wash it all down and experience the world-class Beer Garden experience where the CNMI's leading beverage distributors will serve up cold brews and introduce their newest products. Dance the night away with electrifying live entertainment from bands and talent from around the region and all are welcomed to join the ever-popular cha cha dance competition.

It is Aldan's hope that, by creating and initiating this festival, the cultivation and

exportation of Tinian beef will become one of the island's economic drivers as it continues to look into other ways to stimulate economic growth for Tinian.

"With the 'travel bubble' tourism program set to begin this month, we hope that the festival will draw residents, visitors, and tourists to the island to join in on the fun activities organized for the weekend. The year-long economic standstill imposed on the CNMI has made it difficult for public and private entities to keep their doors open. Now that we are slowly easing into normalcy, this is an ideal time to look into other revenue-generating avenues for each island and the CNMI as a whole," said a Tinian Mayor's Office statement yesterday. **(PR)**



Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, fifth from left, takes Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth from left, and other CNMI leaders on a tour of the Kualidat Meat Processing Center, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently inspected and certified.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Plans for Koblerville NMTI facility still in infancy

The plan for a Northern Marianas Technical Institute facility in Koblerville is still in its early stages and is expected to take two to three years to complete.

NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao said Tuesday the project still needs to go through several steps before the trades school can formally send out requests for proposals to architecture and engineering firms.

The proposed Koblerville

facility will be a 30,000-square-foot two-story building that will feature spaces for administrative offices, classrooms, and open areas for the hands-on portions of NMTI's trades programs. The project will be funded through the \$10.3 million grant the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration gave NMTI in February.

Attao said that NMTI has

been coordinating with the CNMI Office of Planning and Development to secure a consultant who will help the trades school draft its design for the facility, conduct land surveys, and draft the terms and conditions of the future RFPs. Once the RFPs are sent out, NMTI will then determine which architecture and engineering firm will work on the construction project and when. **(Joshua Santos)**



### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### A Walk to Remember on July 22

July is annually recognized as Bereaved Parents Awareness Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness of the support necessary when one endures the loss of a child. This month is a time for supporting our friends and loved ones who have experienced child loss, no matter the amount of years that have gone by.

The Group "We Remember Them CNMI" will be hosting a "Walk to Remember" on Thursday, July 22, at 5pm. We will meet at the pavilion next to The Shack Restaurant. Water will be provided. Please feel free to bring a picture of your child.

For details, please call or text Donna Krum at 783-1900. **(PR)**

#### Comments sought on Saipan Neighborhood Watch

The 16<sup>th</sup> Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council is soliciting public comments on a planned Saipan Neighborhood Watch Program via a series of town hall meetings on Saipan from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- July 13, 2021: Kagman Community Center in Kagman 3;
  - July 15, 2021—Carolinian Utt in Garapan;
  - July 20, 2021—Tanapag Social Hall (across Sta. Remedios Church);
  - July 22, 2021—San Vicente Youth Park;
  - July 27, 2021—Koblerville Youth Center; and
  - July 29, 2021—GTC Elementary School.
- In addition, residents can attend the meetings via Google Meet by sending their email address

at least one day in advance to spnmunicipal-council@gmail.com for the meeting link.

For more details, call the municipal council at 664-2700 or 664-2701. **(PR)**

#### CHamoru commission sets virtual meeting

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la'i Taotao Tāno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second July monthly meeting on July 15, 2021, Thursday from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a virtual link meeting. Contact Kumisión secretary Roland Blas, for special accommodations, virtual link information, and agenda at 480-4047 or email (rblaskumision@gmail.com).

#### Support group for families, friends of alcoholics, addicts

A new support group called Al-Anon Family Group 12 Step Support Group for friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts will be having its inaugural meeting this Saturday, July 17, from 10:15 am to 11:15am at the Paradise Dental Spa on Middle Road in Gualo Rai and will meet every Saturdays, at the same time and location.

For more information:

- Call or text (670) 783-1900;
- Follow on Facebook: Al-Anon Family Group CNMI;
- Visit the website: [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org);
- Download the App: Al-Anon Family-Groups **(PR)**



Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor  
Arnold I. Palacios  
Lt. Governor

### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

#### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

#### Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304

DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540

DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

[www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp) and [www.crm.gov.mp](http://www.crm.gov.mp)



Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator  
Zabrina C. Shai  
Acting Director, DEQ  
Janice Castro  
Director, DCRM

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

**NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION:** The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Office of the Governor, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) intends to amend the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Standards regulations pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 1 CMC § 9104(a).

**AUTHORITY:** These amendments are promulgated under the authority of BECQ pursuant to 2 CMC § 3121 to issue regulations to carry out its policies and purposes, including to develop and administer programs to prevent or regulate activities as necessary to protect the public health or welfare from any significant adverse effect of the discharge of pollutants. 2 CMC § 3122.

**TERMS AND SUBSTANCE:** BECQ is required by the federal Clean Water Act to conduct a comprehensive review of the Water Quality Standards at least once every three years and, as appropriate, to modify and adopt those standards. The proposed amendments will, among other things:

- Increase clarity, including using consistent terminology and defined terms throughout;
- Increase consistency between federal programs and state regulations, including the Tier 2 anti-degradation policy and the Water Quality Certification process;
- Establish a presumption that Tier 3 anti-degradation requirements apply where BECQ determines that insufficient data exists to reasonably determine existing water quality;
- Apply land disposal requirements to all areas regulated as groundwater management zones;
- Clarify certain water quality criteria for cases when ambient conditions exceed numeric criteria;
- Establish water quality criteria for radioactivity in Commonwealth waters;
- Clarify stoppage periods for activities with potential to adversely affect coral reproduction;
- Revise procedural requirements for Water Quality Certifications;
- Expand enforcement procedures; and
- Delete outdated appendix information regarding history and other background information.

**CITATION OF AFFECTED REGULATIONS:** The proposed amendments will update multiple existing regulations and adopt new regulations in NMIAC Chapter 65-130.

**DIRECTIONS FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION:** The proposed amendment shall be published in the Commonwealth Register in the section on proposed and newly adopted regulations (1 CMC § 9201(a)(1)) and posted in convenient places in the civic center and in local governmental offices in each senatorial district, both in English and in the principal vernacular (1 CMC § 9104(a)(1)).

**COMMENTS:** Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to Larry Maurin, DEQ Water Quality Surveillance/Non-Point Source Branch Manager, to the following address, fax, or email address, with the subject line "Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Standards."

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY

PO Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

Fax: (670) 664-8540

Email: [larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp](mailto:larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp)

Comments are due by **5pm ChST on Monday, August 2nd, 2021**. In addition, a public hearing will be held on Monday, July 26th, 2021 at 5:00pm in DEQ's main conference room on the second floor of the Gualo Rai Center in Gualo Rai, Saipan. 1 CMC § 9104(a)(2). The public hearing will be accessible online via GoogleMeet at the following link: <https://meet.google.com/nwe-qkyw-jco>



# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 137

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## EDITORIAL

### Startups are booming thanks to COVID

If you're looking for silver linings in this pandemic-damaged economy, here's a good one: the American entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well. In fact, COVID-19 seems to have uncovered it.

According to census data, there were 500,219 new business applications in May 2021—an increase of more than 68% year-over-year. Obviously, the pandemic caused a deep dip early in 2020, but startups have more than recouped those losses, reaching levels not seen in decades.

According to a February report by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, about 380 out of every 100,000 American adults became new entrepreneurs each month last year. That rate rose over the previous year for every demographic category: genders, ethnicities, immigrant statuses and age groups.

The rise was geographically universal too. According to a report by Visual Capitalist, from January 2020 to January 2021, new business applications rose 78% in Texas, which put it about the middle of the pack nationwide, far behind Louisiana (112%) and Mississippi (164.4%) but ahead of New Mexico (39.9%) and Colorado (47.3%). No state in the union saw a drop in new businesses over that time.

The most popular sectors for startups were retail, professional services and construction, Visual Capitalist reported.

What makes this silver lining even brighter is that it comes after a long decline of American entrepreneurship.

"U.S. entrepreneurship has largely been on the decline for more than three decades," Dallas developer and author Craig Hall lamented in his 2019 book "BOOM: Bridging the Opportunity Gap to Reignite Startups." While the raw number of startups was higher when Hall wrote that than it had been in years, the number of startups as a percentage of all businesses in the country has been in a decades-long decline, according to Kauffman data.

Many sources, including Hall, have asserted that one of the factors driving the decline in entrepreneurship for decades has been consolidation. With large companies reaching deeper into almost every market, there's just less room for small businesses. If the pandemic disrupted that trend, that's a good thing.

But there may be another story beneath the numbers. In 2015, Inc. magazine reported on another methodology for tracking entrepreneurship by an academic consortium called Global Entrepreneurship Monitor. That group looked at not only government data, but surveys of individuals and commerce experts. Its method included a category of entrepreneur labeled nascent: those in the embryonic stages of business creation. According to Inc., these are people with a side hustle, who would likely report being employed by someone else, but are actively pursuing commercial projects of their own. The GEM report said the rate of nascent entrepreneurship had almost doubled in just five years between 2010 and 2015.

So what may have happened in 2020 was not a rise in enterprising behavior, but a removal of the employment cover under which it was operating. More Americans had to make their side hustle their full-time gig.

See COVID on Next Page

## FOX TO START A WEATHER CHANNEL-NEWS ITEM



### Sha'Carri Richardson Olympic treatment ridiculous, but is it racist?

I have a new favorite athlete: Sha'Carri Richardson. She is outspoken, stylish and lightning fast. She won the 100-meter U.S. Olympic trials in Oregon last month, sporting Technicolor hair and a personality to match.

But she won't be competing in the Olympics in Tokyo. On Tuesday, U.S. track officials confirmed that Richardson would be left off the team after testing positive for marijuana. Under international rules, weed is a performance-enhancing drug.

That's ridiculous, as anyone who has smoked it could tell you. But is it racist, too?

Yes, according to comedian Seth Rogen, U.S. representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and a host of other critics. "Their decision lacks any scientific basis," AOC tweeted about the suspension of Ms. Richardson, who is Black. "It's rooted solely in the systematic racism that's long driven anti-marijuana laws."

No, it isn't. Have anti-drug laws been weaponized across our history to stigmatize and oppress racial minorities? You bet. But that's very different from saying that the decision to suspend Richardson was racist, as well.

And the words matter, especially right now. We're in the midst of a long-delayed national debate about the many ways that racism has discolored our history, including our drug laws. Yet we will inhibit that discussion if we pretend that history is destiny, which is the worst myth in American life.

Racists invoke that fallacy all the time: Young Black men are convicted of a disproportionate fraction of violent crime, for example, so any young Black man must be a violent criminal. But anti-racists can fall victim to the same poor logic: A racist practice occurred in the past, so it is also happening now.

On drugs, alas, our racist history is all too clear. The first panic over cocaine dates to the early 20th century, when rumors spread that African American men were using the drug and assaulting white women. Marijuana was tabooed in the 1930s when it became associated with Mexican Americans, who supposedly went on homicidal sprees while under the influence of "locoweed."

For many years crack cocaine brought more severe jail sentences than the powdered kind, because crack was more often used by Black people. And even when different races consume a drug in similar amounts, minorities are penalized more harshly for it. Black people are nearly four times more likely than white people to be arrested for marijuana, although the two races have roughly equal usage rates.

But none of that means Sha'Carri Richardson's suspension was itself racist. To demonstrate that, you'd have to show that

By **JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN**  
The Baltimore Sun

Jonathan Zimmerman teaches education and history at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the co-author (with Signe Wilkinson) of *Free Speech And Why You Should Give a Damn*, which was published in April by City of Light Press. This was written for the Baltimore Sun.



she was somehow treated differently because she is Black. And we have no evidence—none—of any discrimination along those lines.

The World Anti-Doping Agency processed 130 athletes who tested positive for marijuana in 2019, the last full year of competition. So far as I can tell, Black people were not disproportionately disciplined for it. The most famous pot penalty was incurred in 2009 by swim champion and Baltimore native Michael Phelps, who is white. He was suspended from competition for three months—as opposed to Richardson's 30-day ban—after news photos surfaced of him smoking weed from a bong.

The difference here is between structural and individual racism, which lies at the heart of our current reckoning. As educators and historians have reminded us, rules and laws can have racist roots without being racist in any particular case.

But we seem to be ignoring that distinction in the case of Sha'Carri Richardson. Yes, the prohibition on marijuana is connected to our ugly history around race. Yet we distort both the past and the present when we imagine that history operates on everyone in exactly the same way.

We also do a disservice to Richardson, who has drawn support across the political spectrum. Denouncing her suspension, Florida GOP representative Matt Gaetz noted that marijuana was "legal in most states" and didn't "impact performance." Even Donald Trump Jr. got in on the act, urging the Olympics to let Richardson compete. "I'm pretty sure weed has never made anyone faster," he tweeted.

If left-leaning critics continue to condemn Richardson's suspension as racist, will conservatives remain on her side? I doubt it. In a bitterly polarized era, we have a rare bipartisan consensus: Sha'Carri Richardson should race for America in the Olympics. Let's not ruin it by injecting specious charges of racism, which won't help Richardson. Or America.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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## Why vaccine mandates are a bad idea

By **CHRIS TALGO**  
InsideSources.com

*Chris Talgo is a former public school teacher and senior editor at The Heartland Institute. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.*



**T**hroughout the country, schools (especially colleges and universities) are mandating that students receive COVID-19 vaccinations before they return for in-person learning. This is a terrible idea that will likely do more harm than good.

For example, the University of Southern California “is requiring all students, faculty and staff to submit proof of vaccination for COVID-19 in order to access campus facilities for the fall semester.”

There are many reasons students should not be required to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

First, all three COVID-19 vaccines have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

As FDA notes, “An Emergency Use Authorization is a mechanism to facilitate the availability and use of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. Under an EUA, FDA may allow the use of unapproved medical products, or unapproved uses of approved medical products in an emergency to diagnose, treat or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions when certain statutory criteria have been met, including that there are no adequate, approved and available alternatives.”

There is a big difference between allowing the use of unapproved vaccines and requiring them. As long as the COVID-19 vaccines are under EUA, it is patently wrong to mandate them.

Second, less than a month after FDA gave the go ahead for adolescent Americans to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, disturbing reports have surfaced of young Americans being hospitalized with heart problems.

As NBC News recently reported, “A higher-than-usual number of cases of a type of heart inflammation has been reported following COVID-19 vaccination, especially among young men following their second dose of an mRNA vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.”

“Overall, 226 cases of myocarditis or pericarditis after vaccination in people younger than age 30 have been confirmed, Dr. Tom Shimabukuro, deputy director of the CDC’s Immunization Safety Office, said during a presentation to a Food and Drug Administration advisory group,” NBC News notes.

Indeed, the number of young Americans experiencing heart problems after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine has caused the CDC to schedule an “emergency meeting” to look further into this troubling matter.

Unless and until this problem is fully understood, no school in the country should mandate students receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Third, what about students who have already contracted COVID-19 and have ample natural antibodies? Why in the world should they be forced to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

According to a study from the Cleveland Clinic titled “Necessity of COVID-19 vaccination in previously infected individuals,” “Not one of the 1,359 previously infected subjects who remained unvaccinated had a SARS-CoV-2 infection over the duration of the study.”

In other words, if you have had COVID-19, there is no need for a vaccine. However, most (if not all) of the schools issuing vaccine edicts have made no exceptions for students previously infected with COVID-19. That makes no sense.

Fourth, and perhaps most significant, is the fact that by and large, COVID-19 poses little threat to young people.

As of this writing, according to CDC data, 314 Americans under the age of 17 have died from COVID-19. Among Americans aged 18 to 29 years old, 2,323 have died from COVID-19.

Moreover, data show that young people rarely transmit COVID-19. According to Pediatrics (official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics): “Children are not significant drivers of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is unclear why documented SARS-CoV-2 transmission from children to other children or adults is so infrequent.”

So, if young people are basically invulnerable to COVID-19 and seldom spread the disease, why are schools pushing to mandate vaccines on this population?

If we have learned one lesson from the pandemic, it is that one-size-fits-all “solutions” do not work.

Fifteen months into the pandemic, it is unequivocally true that COVID-19 has an outsized effect on the elderly and those with co-morbidities, such as obesity, diabetes, etc.

For the most part, young people have been thrown under the proverbial bus throughout the pandemic. We shuttered schools, thereby retarding their educational prospects and intellectual development. We also forbade them from almost any in-person social interaction, which contributed to a huge spike in child abuse, depression and even youth suicide.

At this point in the pandemic, we know that young people have paid a monumental toll. The absolute last thing we should do is mandate an experimental vaccine that could cause long-term heart problems.

## COVID

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Whatever the details, it appears that at least some of those people who lost their jobs last year have launched out on their own. We wish them success. The entrepreneurial spirit has always been a key element in America’s prosperity. The dream of success and the willingness to take risks to reach it are core to what makes America American. In that regard, the pandemic disruption of 2020 might turn out to be a good thing for the future of the American dream.

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## We would die for our children; let them be vaccinated

By **JAMES ROSEN**  
InsideSources.com

*James Rosen, former Washington Bureau reporter for McClatchy Newspapers, last month received a first-place award for opinion-column writing from the Society of Professional Journalists. He has also received multiple National Press Club, Military Reporters and Editors and other honors for his reporting on Congress, the White House and the Pentagon. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.*



**O**ur fear for our children’s safety is visceral, and it is universal.

Nothing unites people across all cultural, economic, social and geographic lines like the love for their children and their desire to protect them against every danger real or imagined.

So recent polls showing that one in four American parents don’t plan to get their children vaccinated against the coronavirus, whether with the newly approved shots for those at least 12 years of age or with the ones expected in September for little ones as young as 5, is not surprising.

When my son stopped moving for two hours in my wife’s womb after she fell on the stairs; when he got behind the wheel for the first time; when he drove off to college with a final wave goodbye—I felt something worse than fear. I felt helpless—helpless to save him from harm.

The mandatory vaccines that Julian got at various ages before entering kindergarten—from hepatitis B (the only one given at birth), polio and pneumonia to diphtheria, tetanus, and influenza—came with reassurances from pediatricians that they’d been administered safely for decades, to millions of youngsters.

The COVID-19 vaccine is different. While it’s been provided to 157 million Americans, the vast majority are adults. The FDA only recently gave emergency authorization for children as young as 12 to receive it. Even for adults, the vaccines by Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have not received final approval as federal and state health agencies collect more data on their effects.

And no vaccine in the history of medicine was developed with the lightning speed of the coronavirus inoculation—in the miraculous blink of nine months during last year’s pandemic shutdown. The other 16 or so shots that children receive on staggered schedules until adulthood took years to develop.

The coronavirus vaccine’s rapid development is cause for celebration—but also for pause from parents concerned about the 200 universities that have made vaccines mandatory for attendance this fall, and about the appeals by

some principals, teachers and administrators to require them for school attendance at much younger ages.

Only 53 percent of parents of children under 12, polled in May by Gallup, said they planned to have their kids vaccinated once the FDA greenlights it for younger people.

The scheduled September approval could put parents on a collision course with teachers and school administrators, who might insist, on threat of union-led walkout, that the vaccine be mandatory for their students.

But however natural their deep-rooted vigilance may be, the COVID vaccine’s short but spectacular history should put parents’ hearts and minds at ease.

When Pfizer and Moderna announced last year that their hastily assembled vaccine trials had shown a 95 percent success rate, it seemed too good to be true. A year later, the news is still better: Among the 156 million Americans who have been fully vaccinated, scarcely 11,000 have contracted the virus. For the mathematically precise, that’s a success rate of 99.999285714 percent.

Even more astounding, only 3,365 have required hospitalization, and of the 750 who have died, most were elderly or had underlying medical conditions.

“You are just as likely to be killed by a meteorite as die from COVID after a vaccine,” Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious-disease expert at the University of California in San Francisco, told CNBC.

That should be especially true for children, whose immune systems are more robust than those of adults, and whose rate of coronavirus infection has been a fraction of the rate for their elders.

If history is a guide, whether to make vaccines mandatory for schoolchildren will vary from state to state and even from district to district. And a glut of misinformation coupled with the burden of making a weighty choice can leave wary parents wanting to wait and see what happens to the herd.

That’s when children get sick.

“And when those who choose not to vaccinate live in the same communities, as a study out of Kaiser Permanente showed was the case in California, it can create the perfect environment for a vaccine-preventable germ to spread,” said Dr. Claire McCarthy, a primary care pediatrician at Boston Children’s Hospital and senior editor of Harvard Health Publications.

Older vaccines have all but eradicated 10 diseases that once killed children by the tens of thousands, with measles, diphtheria and pertussis leading the list of killers. Despite that success, Connecticut is the only state that requires all of them for kindergarten entry. Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island and South Dakota mandate only four.

“It’s always better to reinforce positive behavior rather than mandate,” Bob Bollinger, a professor of infectious diseases at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, told CNBC. “But we have a precedent of requiring vaccinations to go to school.”

Now the B.1.1.7 coronavirus variant, newly dominant in the United States, appears to be targeting younger patients more frequently, making it more urgent for them to be vaccinated.

Parents meeting this challenge must do what they do every day—overcome their fears in order to do what is best for their children.

**VIEWPOINTS:**  
**Should coronavirus vaccines be mandated for schoolkids?**









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# ARONGORONGUL TOWLAP

## **CNMI BWULASIYOL AMMWELIL ARAMAS IKKA E WEIRES ILIGHIIR 2022-2026 Menngengil téél faliwwal Amerika (State) Mengemeng (Plan) reel meeta rebwe ayoora (Goals) me takkalóól Meeta (Objectives)**

Eew me eew téél faliwwal Ameriwa (State) reel ammwelil aramas kka e weires ilighiir nge rekke tungóór bwe rebwe isissilong (5)-limoow ráágh Menngengil téél faliwwal Amerika STATE PLAN rebwe ngalei bwulasiyol schuman me ammweliir aramas kka re weires ilighiir ye reghal ira bwe (ADMINISTRATION ON INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES/AIDD) ye iir mille emmwel sibwe ghulei meeta kka mmwel sibwe yááyá ngeli selaapil federód ye e toowow mereel meeta reghal fééri reel mwóghuttughutul selapil federód. Ye reghal aweeweí bwe BASIC OPERATIONAL GRANT. Mengemeng we (PLAN) llól téél faliwwal Amerika nge e amwuri ebwe faisul mille ebwe aghatchúl malawer armas ikka re weires ilighiir bwe ebwe mmwel rebwe toolong llól meeta akkaschay reghal fééri mwóghuttughut me melau llól sóóbw. Bwulasiyol Federód ekke tettengegh bwe bwulasiyol ammwelil aramas kka e weires ilighiir rebwe affata meeta mengemengiir llól jaar State Plan, ebwe akkau ngere alangal bwulei ikka kongressiyol Amerika e ayoora llól selaapi yeel bwe rebwe atabwei reel allilissil aramas kka re weires ilighiir me e bwal lo llól allégh ye reghal ira bwe Bill of Rights Act llól ráágh ye 2000 (DD Act).

### **Bulei kka re allanga bwe rebwe atabwei, ammwuri me faal:**

Ammwelil oligháát – Alillissil Toulap–Ghommwal Alillissil Aramas – Ammwelil Somway -Malal Angaang - Ammeleitei – Ghatchúl Aweeweel – Ayoora limw — Ukkur – Ayoora Ghareta Bwulasiyol CNMI Ammwelil Aramas kka E Weires Ilighiir rebwe ayoora arongorongol towlap me Seipél, Tchúlúyól, me Luuta reel ebwe faisul aar ebwe scheliir alanger aramas kka e weires ilighiir me bwal school imwer. Llól arongorongol towlap yeel nge ebwe atol igha aramas kka e weires ilighiir, school leeimw, abwiibwi me towlap rebwe ammwuri mengemeng ye limoow ráágh nge raa iralong meeta re mengi ngere isissilong meeta mengemengiir reel 2022-2026 mengemengil limoow ráágh.

Bwulasiyol CDD re aweeweiwow meeta rebwe fééri llól jaar mengemeng llól limoow ráágh, ye re fééritá llól aweewe kka e tooto mereer aramasal faliw me state wide assessment we re fééri rebwe ghulei meeta kka eghi llang bwe rebwe ayoora reel allilissil aramas kka re weires ilighiir llól limoow ráágh kka mmwal. Eew ffefféeril nge rebwe ayoora allégh, emmwel rebwe ayoora akkabwung rebwe lemeli meeta me e bwal ssogh milikka emmwel rebwe aweeweí. Aute ghal soong nge CDD ese bwal kke ngalawow alillissil aramas bwe meeta federód e bwungiw bwe aibwe fééri, ilaal schagh mille emmwel aibwe ayoora.

## **CNMI Bwulasiyol Aramas kka e weires ilighiir STATE PLAN FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2022-2026 meeta rebwe ayoora (Goals) me takkalóól Meeta (Objectives)**

### **Ayyorál Meeta 1 – Tepengúgh**

E scheeli me e aghatchúllóól ammweler aramas kka rebwe affal me rebwe tepengiir leyir aramas kka rebwe ammwelaar me e weires ilighiir.

#### **Takkalóól Meeta 1.1 – Tepengúgh**

Ayoora alillis bwe ebwe ammamawaló yéleghil State Self-Advocacy ye re apayú reer schókka re lo llól ammwelil aramas kka e weires ilighiir.

#### **Takkalóól Meeta 1.2 – Tepengúgh**

Alillis ngeli ammwelal aramas kka e weires ilighiir nge aa mmwel rebwele mwetteló nge raa afal ngeliir iyo re mwuschel rebwe akkabwung bwe rebwe toowow nge raa ghi ghatch nge aa bwal mmwel rebwe bwal affal ngeliir ammwelil aramas kka e weires ilighiir.

#### **Takkalóól Meeta 1.3 – Tepengúgh**

Alisiir mille mmwel rebwe fiti me toolong reel aramas kka rebwe ammwelaar bwe e weires ilighiir reel aweewe ye cross-disability me kkol afal mellól sowul aweeweel afal.

### **Ayyorál Meeta 2 – Ghatchulóól Alillis**

Schulap ye (Council) rebwe schufengel me scheeler reel rebwe angaang wóól ruwoow alillissil siwel me mmwel rebwe ayoora arongorong, meleitei, me rebwe ayoora akkaabwung alangal ráágh, nge e bwal mmwel bwe yáát emmwel ammwelaar aramas kka e weires ilighiir ebwe maas aghatchúúrló ghuleyer igha reschewel high school me ngere raa takk me high school nge aa mmwel rebwele toolong llól meeta angaang ye llól sóóbw me ayoora maas meeta ye rebwe angaang llól CNMI.

### **Takkalóól Meeta 2.1 – Angaang**

Llól 2023, re ayoora maas bwulei ye schóól ghuttul angaang me bwal yáát rebwe ngalleer maas atoll akkabwung bwe rebwe ghukkule meeta igha re lo schagh gakk me llól ammweliir aramas kka e weires ilighiir nge re maas ghatchúló nge esóór lo aar mesagh igha re schufengel me ate kka esóór meeta weiresil ilighiir nge re angaang fengel ngere tarabwaagho llól téél faliw llól CNMI nge eyoor angingi fengel me alillissil reel scheeler Council ye re angaang fengel me CNMI Disability Network Partners bwe rebwe abwungúur school angaang, towlap me re ayoora allégh llól Septiembre 2023 bwe rebwe ghi maas aghatchéló ammwelil me alillissil angaang reer aramas kka eyoor weiresil ilighiir.

### **Takkalóól Meeta 2.2 – Siwelling Rebwe Fiti Meeta**

Llól 2023, re schufengel me CNMI Transition Coalition, CNMI ammwelil armas kka e weires ilighiir schuulap ye re ghal ira bwe Network me akkaschai aramas nge raa ayoora ngere re fééri.

Eew akkabwung ye ebwe aghatchúló mille ebwe ghatch aar siwelling ate kka e weires ilighiir ye ebwe scheeli jaar akkabwung me ammweler reel rebwe weeweló me ate kka ese weires ilighiir llól inaamwo iya igha re tipeli rebwe angaang ngere tarabwaagho iye.

### **Ayyorál Meeta 3 – Affellil Mal Weires Ilighiir Me Rese Bwááng**

Schóól leeimw me ngere schóól affellil mal somway ye e weires ilighil me aramas kka resaa bwanngelo nge emmwel rebwe lo llól alillissil selaapil federód ye re ghal ira bwe Commonwealth Respite Services Program faal allegh ye (CNMI PL 20-43). e mweitingeli bwe ebwele fiti depattamentool Sóóbw me Aweeweel kkol me Ammwelil Faliw (Department of Community and Cultural Affairs) ii mille ebwele lemeli mwóghuttughuttul aar alillis.

### **Takkalóól Meeta 3.1- Affellil Mal Weires Ilighiir Me Rese Bwááng**

Ngere aa 2023, nge ebwele yoor alillis fengel me depattamentool Sóóbw me Aweeweel kkol me Ammwelil Faliw (Department of Community and Cultural Affairs) me scheler bwe ebwe aghatchúló me ngere rebwe maas sabweiló aar akkabwung bwe ebwe iligh numeror reel schóól affeliir aramas kka e weires ilighiir bwe emmwel rebwe scheliir aramas kka rese kke toolong llól programa yeel e weewe schagh school Tchúlúyól me Luuta.

### **Ayyorál Meeta 4 – Ghitipposch**

Armasa kka ammwelil weiresil ilighiir ebwe weewe schagh aar ammwelaar ngere atol ghitipposch nge rebwe lo llól igha rebwe mengi meeta kka rebwe fééri, rebwe ayoora meeta me rebwe afelliir ngere eghal eyoor ghitipposch me ebwe ffat meeta rebwe tepeléggh ngere eghal ghulaar ghitipposch llól jaar melau.

### **Takkalóól Meeta 4.1 – Teppeléggh Reel Ghitipposch**

Llól 2023, re schufengel CNMI Homeland Security me Emergency Management, CNMI disability Network Partners, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, CNMI CORE me bwal akkaschai towlap ikka e lo bwe bwal iir rebwe toolong llól yélegh yeel bwe rebwe aghatchúló mwóghuttughuttul me ebwe suusuló aal bwe ngere eghal yoor ghitipposch nge ammwelil aramas ikka e weires ilighiir nge rebwe lo llól mengenngil ghitipposch.

### **Re Mwuschel Yóómw Aweewe**

Towlap ebwe ammwuri mengemeng we limoow ráágh bwe e lo llól alléghil faliw bwe ebwe scheli mengemeng yeel. Eyoor faigh me limoow ráál reel towlap ebwe amwuri mengemeng ye relaál ayoora me meeta re mengi rebwe ayoora me meeta takkalóól meeta me rebwe ngallong mengemengiir bwe emmwel ebwe scheeli mengemeng ye re fééri. Re bwall kke tingóór meeta kka ebwe scheeli meeta kka ebwe ghatch rebwe aghala me rebwe aghatchúló meeta re mengi rebwe ayoora me meeta rebwe fééri reel takkalóól meeta.

Mengemeng ye Limoow Ráágh nge emmwel aubwe schuungi mellól Bwulasiyol CNMI Council reel Ammwelil Aramas kka E weires ilighiir llól iimw ye #1310, Anatahan Drive., Capitol Hill ngere emmwel ubwe bwal faffaingi jaar bwulasiyo llól tilifon ye (670) 664-7000/3/5. Emmwel ebwe bwal yoor tiliighi yeel ngere u tingóórlong.

Aute ghal soong nge aubwe atolongoi meeta au ischi reel email ye cnmicouncilondd@gmail.com. Eew me eew aweewe, aute ghal soong au ischi meeta numeral Ayyorál Meeta me Takkalóól Meeta.

### **Atol ubwe isissilong meeta:**

#### **Unio 9-Ulio 23, 2021**

Yóómw ebwe toolong llól bwulasiyo atoll 4:30 p.m. CHST wóól Ulio 23, 2021.

Ghirisow.






Afaffal Bwe ete faiyébwut bwulasiyo: Bweigha alangal aweewe raa amwuri ghatchiw reel alangal autol sesselil tiliighi ye igha rebwele arongóór towlap. Ngere yoor aweewe me meeta ye rebwe awela nge (ETES) Elameto Translation & Education Services mille rebwe aiyeighi reel meeta ye ese wel ngere ese lo llól tiliighi yeel.

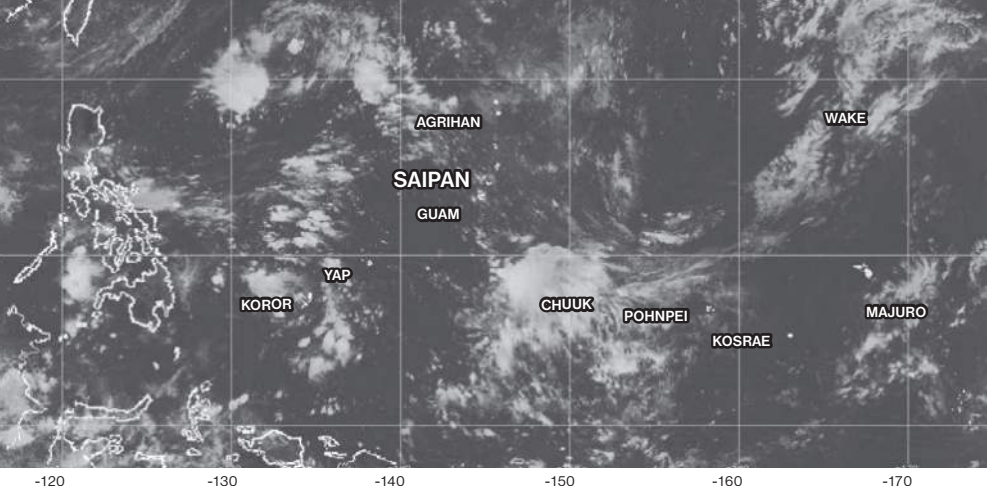






# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
88°	79°	85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:53 AM, MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite images show widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters. A surface trough to the east is bringing increased showers from the east. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 5 feet composed mainly of east trade-wind swell. Wave model data shows little else in the way of wave activity at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:27 AM	9:29 PM	-
Wednesday	9:21 AM	10:11 PM	-
Thursday	10:15 AM	10:51 PM	-
Friday	11:08 AM	11:31 PM	-
Saturday	12:02 PM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	95° / 77°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 63°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	83° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 34°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°	
Paris	Thunderstorms	88° / 66°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 73°	
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 53°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	90° / 77°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	95° / 77°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:09 AM	Low Tide	1.44	
8:40 AM	High Tide	1.97	
4:06 PM	Low Tide	-0.04	
11:16 PM	High Tide	2.06	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable				

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# Business

## More competition: Biden inks order targeting big businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden signed an executive order on Friday targeting what he labeled anticompetitive practices in tech, health care and other parts of the economy, declaring it would fortify an American ideal “that true capitalism depends on fair and open competition.”

The sweeping order includes 72 actions and rec-

ommendations that Biden said would lower prices for families, increase wages for workers and promote innovation and faster economic growth. However, new regulations that agencies may write to translate his policy into rules could trigger major legal battles.

The order includes calls for banning or limiting non-compete agreements to help

boost wages, allowing rule changes that would pave the way for hearing aids to be sold over the counter at drugstores and banning excessive early termination fees by internet companies. It also calls on the Transportation Department to consider issuing rules requiring airlines to refund fees when baggage is delayed or in-flight services are not provided as advertised.



### FIRST ASTRO-TOURIST

Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson, left, receives a Virgin Galactic made astronaut wings pin from Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield after his flight to space from Spaceport America near Truth or Consequences, N.M., Sunday, July 11, 2021. Branson hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship Sunday, bringing astro-tourism a step closer to reality and beating out his exceedingly richer rival Jeff Bezos. The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space-tourism company reached an altitude of 53.5 miles (86 kilometers) over the New Mexico desert—enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and witness the curvature of the Earth—and then glided back home to a runway landing.

AP

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Average US price of gas rises 5 cents per gallon to \$3.21

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline rose a nickel over the past two weeks, to \$3.21 per gallon. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that gas prices will likely hold steady now that crude oil costs have stopped rising. The price at the pump is 97 cents higher than it was a year ago. Nationwide, the highest average price for regular-grade gas is in the San Francisco Bay Area, at \$4.39 per gallon. The lowest average is in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at \$2.65 per gallon. The average price of diesel in the survey taken Friday was \$3.30 a gallon, up 3 cents from two weeks earlier.

#### Schumer wants NRA investigated for bankruptcy fraud

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Sunday called on the Justice Department to investigate the National Rifle Association for bankruptcy fraud, saying the financially stable gun-rights group abused the system when it sought bankruptcy protection in the wake of a New York lawsuit seeking to put it out of business. A judge rejected the NRA's bankruptcy case in May, ruling the nonprofit organization had not acted in good faith. NRA leaders made clear that the organization was “in its strongest financial condition in years” and was seeking bankruptcy protection so it could change its state of incorporation from New York to gun-friendly

Texas. Schumer, a New York Democrat, said the NRA's continued heavy spending on advertising criticizing proposed gun control measures and the nomination of gun control lobbyist David Chipman to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives are further evidence that its bankruptcy filing was inspired by legal, not financial, concerns.

#### China vows retaliation after US blacklists companies

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday said it will take “necessary measures” to respond to the U.S. blacklisting of Chinese companies over their alleged role in abuses of Uyghur people and other Muslim ethnic minorities. The Commerce Ministry said the U.S. move constituted an “unreasonable suppression of Chinese enterprises and a serious breach of international economic and trade rules.” China will “take necessary measures to firmly safeguard Chinese companies’ legitimate rights and interests,” the ministry’s statement said. No details were given, but China has denied allegations of arbitrary detention and forced labor in the far western region of Xinjiang and increasingly responded to sanctions against companies and officials with its own bans on visas and financial links. The U.S. Commerce Department said in a statement Friday that the electronics and technology firms and other businesses helped enable “Beijing’s campaign of repression, mass detention and high-technology surveillance” against Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

# Nation

## California and other parts of the West broil and burn



AP

A firefighter sprays water while trying to stop the Sugar Fire, part of the Beckwourth Complex Fire, from spreading to neighboring homes in Doyle, Calif., Saturday, July 10, 2021.

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters working in searing heat struggled to contain the largest wildfire in California this year while state power operators urged people to conserve energy after a huge wildfire in neighboring Oregon disrupted the flow of electricity from three major transmission lines.

A large swath of the West baked during the weekend in triple-digit temperatures that were expected to continue into the start of the work week. The California Independent System Operator that manages the state’s power grid issued a five-hour “flex alert” starting at 4 p.m. Monday and asked consumers to “conserve as much electricity as possible” to avoid any outages.

California and other parts of the West are sinking deeper into drought and that has sent fire danger sky high in many areas. In Arizona, a small plane crashed Saturday during a survey of a wildfire in rural Mohave County, killing both crew members.

The Beech C-90 aircraft was helping perform reconnaissance over the lightning-caused Cedar Basin Fire, near the tiny community of Wikieup northwest of Phoenix.

Officials on Sunday identified the victims as Air

Tactical Group Supervisor Jeff Piechura, 62, a retired Tucson-area fire chief who was working for the Coronado National Forest, and Matthew Miller, 48, a pilot with Falcon Executive Aviation contracted by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

In Oregon, the Bootleg Fire exploded to 224 square miles (580 square kilometers) as it raced through heavy timber in the Fremont-Winema National Forest, near the Klamath County town of Sprague River. The fire disrupted service on three transmission lines providing up to 5,500 megawatts of electricity to neighboring California.

The largest wildfire of the year in California was raging near the border with Nevada. The Beckwourth Complex Fire — a combination of two lightning-caused blazes burning north of Lake Tahoe — grew by a third Sunday to 134 square miles (348 kilometers). However, firefighters working in temperatures that topped 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) were able to gain some ground, doubling containment to 20%.

Late Saturday, flames jumped U.S. 395, which was closed near the small town of

Doyle in California’s Lassen County. The lanes reopened Sunday, and officials urged motorists to use caution and keep moving along the key north-south route where flames were still active.

“Do not stop and take pictures,” said the fire’s Operations Section Chief Jake Cagle. “You are going to impede our operations if you stop and look at what’s going on.”

Cagle said structures had burned in Doyle, but he didn’t have an exact number. Bob Prary, who manages the Buck-Inn Bar in the town of about 600 people, said he saw at least six houses destroyed after Saturday’s flareup. The fire was smoldering Sunday in and around Doyle, but he feared some remote ranch properties were still in danger.

“It seems like the worst is over in town, but back on the mountainside the fire’s still going strong,” Prary said.

A wildfire in southeast Washington grew to almost 60 square miles (155 square kilometers) as it blackened grass and timber while it moved into the Umatilla National Forest.

In Idaho, Gov. Brad Little declared a wildfire emergency Friday and mobilized the state’s National Guard to help fight fires sparked after lightning storms swept across the drought-stricken region.



# Asia

## Biden backs Trump rejection of China's South China Sea claim

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration on Sunday upheld a Trump-era rejection of nearly all of China's significant maritime claims in the South China Sea. The administration also warned China that any attack on the Philippines in the flashpoint region would draw a U.S. response under a mutual defense treaty.

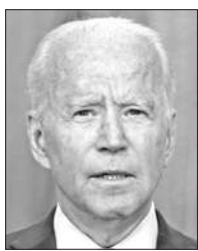
The stern message from Secretary of State Antony Blinken came in a statement released ahead of this week's fifth anniversary of an international tribunal's ruling in favor of the Philippines, against China's maritime claims around the Spratly Islands and neighboring reefs and shoals. China rejects the ruling.

Ahead of the fourth anniversary of the ruling last year, the Trump administration came out in favor of the ruling but also said it regarded as illegitimate virtually all Chinese maritime claims in the South China Sea outside China's

internationally recognized waters. Sunday's statement reaffirms that position, which had been laid out by Trump's secretary of state, Mike Pompeo.

"Nowhere is the rules-based maritime order under greater threat than in the South China Sea," Blinken said, using language similar to Pompeo's. He accused China of continuing "to coerce and intimidate Southeast Asian coastal states, threatening freedom of navigation in this critical global thoroughway."

"The United States reaffirms its July 13, 2020 policy regarding maritime claims in the South China Sea," he said, referring to Pompeo's original statement. "We also reaffirm that an armed attack on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the South China Sea would invoke U.S. mutual defense



Biden

commitments."

Article IV of the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty obligates both countries to come to each other's aid in case of an attack.

Prior to Pompeo's statement, U.S. policy had been to insist that maritime disputes between China and its smaller neighbors be resolved peacefully through U.N.-backed arbitration. The shift did not apply to disputes over land features that are above sea level, which are considered to be "territorial" in nature.

Although the U.S. continues to remain neutral in territorial disputes, it has effectively sided with the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, all of which oppose Chinese assertions of sovereignty over maritime areas surrounding contested South China Sea islands, reefs and shoals.

## Bangladesh factory fire kills 52

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police in Bangladesh arrested eight people Saturday on murder charges in connection with a factory fire that killed at least 52 people, many of whom were trapped inside by an illegally locked door, a senior police official said.

The blaze began Thursday night at the five-story Hashem Foods Ltd. factory in Rupganj, just outside the capital Dhaka, sending huge clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky. Police discovered piles of bodies Friday afternoon after the fire was extinguished.

"We have arrested them for murder charges," Jayedul Alam, police superintendent for Narayanganj district, told The Associated Press by phone. "They are in our custody now."

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said that among those de-



Source: AP  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

tained is the managing director of Sajeeb Group, which owns the factory.

The minister did not provide further details, but said those responsible would be

punished.

"It's a murder," Khan told reporters as he visited the factory site Saturday.

By Saturday evening, a court in Dhaka allowed all eight suspects to remain in police custody for four days for interrogation.

Bangladesh has a tragic history of industrial disasters, including factories catching fire with workers locked inside. Big international brands, which employ tens of thousands of low-paid workers in Bangladesh, have come under heavy pressure to improve factory conditions.

In similar cases, factory owners have faced culpable homicide charges for negligence, and it's illegal for a factory to lock its exits when workers are inside during production hours.

near the watchtower when lightning struck late Sunday.

Srivastava said at least nine more people were killed and nearly 20 others were injured in separate lightning strikes when the state was lashed with thunderstorms and monsoon rains.

In Uttar Pradesh, 18 people were killed by lightning on Sunday, said Manoj Dixit, a government official. Most of those killed were farm laborers working in fields.

Both state governments an-

nounced financial compensation for the families of the victims and those who were injured.

The Indian Meteorological Department has warned of more lightning in the next two days.

Lightning strikes are common during India's monsoon season, which runs from June to September.

More than 2,900 people were killed by lightning in India in 2019, according to the the most recent official figures available.

# World

## Haitian arrested as alleged tie to assassination masterminds

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The head of Haiti's national police announced Sunday that officers arrested a Haitian man accused of flying into the country on a private jet and working with the masterminds and alleged assassins behind the killing of President Jovenel Moïse.

Police Chief Léon Charles identified the suspect as Christian Emmanuel Sanon, without giving any personal information about him, though it appears he has been living in Florida. The chief also gave no information on the purported masterminds.

Charles said the alleged killers were protecting Sanon as the supposed president of Haiti, adding that officers found several items at his house, including a hat emblazoned with the logo of

the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, 20 boxes of bullets, gun parts, four automobile license plates from the Dominican Republic, two cars and correspondence with unidentified people.

"We continue to make strides," Charles said of police efforts to solve the brazen attack early Wednesday at Moïse's private home that killed the president and seriously wounded his wife, Martine Moïse, who was flown to Miami and remains hospitalized.

Charles said a total of 26 Colombians are suspected in the killing of the president. Eighteen of them have been arrested, along with three Haitians. He said five of the suspects are still at large and at least three have been killed.

"They are dangerous individuals," he said. "I'm talking commando, specialized commando."

The chief said police are working with high-ranking Colombian officials to identify details of the alleged plot, including when the suspects left Colombia and who paid for their tickets.

Charles said Sanon was in contact with a firm that provides security for politicians and recruited the suspects, adding that the suspect flew into Haiti with them in early June. The men's initial mission was to protect Sanon, but they later received a new one: arrest the president, the chief said.

"The operation started from there," he said, adding that an additional 22 suspects joined the group and that

## 9 killed in Sweden skydiving plane crash

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—A small plane carrying skydivers crashed outside the Swedish city of Örebro, killing all nine people on board, police said on Friday.

The dead included the pilot and eight passengers, police said. The victims were members of a local skydiving club, according to Örebro County Governor Maria Larsson.

Spokesperson Carl-Johan Linde of the Swedish Maritime Administration, which oversees air traffic, told broadcaster SVT Thursday evening's crash must have occurred "in connection" with the plane's takeoff.

The plane burst into flames upon impact on what

appeared to be an open field.

"There were no lives to save," local fire chief Per-Ove Staberyd, who coordinated the work of firefighters and other first responders, said.

Police received word of the crash shortly before 7:30 p.m. local time and quickly knew it was "a very serious incident," deputy regional police chief Niclas Hallgren said on Friday.

He said that investigating the accident would be "a difficult job. It will take its time."

Hallgren declined to provide details about the victims or speculate why the plane had crashed. But Joakim Berlin, an instructor with the Stockholms Fallskärmsklubb,

told Swedish broadcaster SVT that it was "nine of our comrades who have perished, who are members of our sky diving family."

The Swedish Accident Investigation Authority immediately dispatched a team to the crash site outside Örebro, which is located 64 kilometers (102 miles) west of Stockholm.

"Something happened in the middle of the runway. The plane didn't get up very high before it went down to the left of the runway," Peter Swaffer, Swedish Accident Investigation Authority department chief told daily newspaper Aftonbladet. He didn't elaborate.



### HEATWAVE

A child cools off in a fountain in Cordoba, southern Spain, Sunday, July 11, 2021. Southern Spain sweltered under intense heat for a second straight day on Sunday, when thermometers were expected to reach well over 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in large swathes of the European Union country. A mass of hot air carrying dust and sand from Africa was forecast to push temperatures 5-to-10 degrees Celsius above average in many areas of the country.

AP



# Life & Style

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP FILM WRITER

Even with an option to watch “Black Widow” at home, audiences went to the movie theater in pandemic record numbers this weekend to catch the first Marvel movie released in two years.

The Walt Disney Co. said Sunday the superhero pic generated an estimated \$80 million in ticket sales in North America. Combined with \$78 million from international theaters and at least \$60 million in Disney+ Premier Access rentals, “Black Widow” grossed over \$215 million in its first weekend. The studio said it’s the largest domestic opening weekend since “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” debuted in 2019, pre-pandemic.

It’s a massive win for coronavirus-era moviegoing. In North America, the previous pandemic recordholder was Universal’s “F9,” which debuted to \$70 million a few weeks ago. But unlike “Black Widow,” which is playing on 4,100 screens, the ninth “Fast & Furious” movie was exclusively in theaters.

“This was a pretty monumental weekend for the industry,” said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore’s senior media analyst. “‘Black Widow’ played well on big screens and small screens. And it actually strengthens the case for movie theaters.”

Dergarabedian noted that the vast majority of profits, \$158.8 million, came from theaters. Around \$12 million of that came from IMAX screens too.

“Hollywood blockbusters continue to gain ground at the box office with each successive release, and that bodes very well for the many films

lined up for exclusive worldwide theatrical release this fall and beyond,” said Rich Gel-fond the CEO of IMAX.

“Black Widow,” starring Scarlett Johansson, has had a long journey to theaters. Originally slated to come out in May of 2020, the blockbuster was delayed because of the pandemic. Disney ultimately decided to release it “day and date,” meaning it came out on more than one platform at the same time. “Black Widow,” in theaters and for a \$30 rental on its subscription streaming service Disney+. Although not unprecedented for pandemic movie releases, or even for Disney, which did the same for “Cruella,” it’s the first Marvel movie to attempt the hybrid strategy. And it’s by far the biggest earner to date.

It is unusual for studios to release grosses from streaming profits in real time. Many never do so, and some release figures weeks after the fact.

“‘Black Widow’s’ strong performance this weekend affirms our flexible distribution strategy of making franchise films available in theaters for a true cinematic experience and, as COVID concerns continue globally, providing choice to consumers who prefer to watch at home on Disney+,” said Kareem Daniel, the chairman of Disney Media and Entertainment Distribution, in a statement.

The film was liked by audiences, who gave it an A-minus CinemaScore, and critics. “Black Widow” currently boasts an 80% positive rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Men made up some 58% of the opening weekend crowd.

“F9” came in second place with an estimated \$10.8 million, bringing its domestic total to \$140.8 million in its third



(JAY MAIDMENT/MARVEL STUDIOS-DISNEY VIA AP)  
This image released by Marvel Studios shows Scarlett Johansson in a scene from “Black Widow.”

## ‘Black Widow’ soars to pandemic box office record

weekend out in North America. Globally, it’s grossed \$541.8 million. Universal also held the third and fourth place spots with the animated sequel “The Boss Baby: Family Business,” which added \$8.7 million, and the horror “The Forever Purge,” with \$6.7 million. “A Quiet Place Part II” rounded out the top five with \$3 million.

Currently, 81% of North American theaters are open,

and most are operating at full capacity. Overall the films this weekend grossed a total of \$117 million. It’s the first time since the beginning of the pandemic that a moviegoing weekend has surpassed \$100 million.

And while it’s promising for the industry as a whole, Marvel films have always been in a box office category of their own. Overall, they’ve grossed nearly \$23 billion.

“Marvel films are a unique monster,” Dergarabedian said. “I don’t know that you’ll see this for every release.”

Estimated ticket sales for

Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. “Black Widow,” \$80 million.                     | 6. “Cruella,” \$2.2 million.                       |
| 2. “F9,” \$10.9 million.                            | 7. “The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard,” \$1.6 million. |
| 3. “The Boss Baby: Family Business,” \$8.7 million. | 8. “Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway,” \$1.3 million.   |
| 4. “The Forever Purge,” \$6.7 million.              | 9. “In the Heights,” \$630,000.                    |
| 5. “A Quiet Place Part II,” \$3 million.            | 10. “Zola,” \$620,000.                             |

## Artist uses his brush to turn Surfside’s pain into hope

**SURFSIDE, Fla.** (AP)—Roberto Marquez flew from Dallas to Miami nearly two weeks ago, hoping to add his hands to those digging through the rubble of a fallen South Florida condo building. But once there, the muralist was disappointed to hear that his help was appreciated but not needed.

An epic search for victims was already underway by an army of first responders, initially for survivors and now for bodies. As of Friday, at

least 79 people had been confirmed dead and dozens remained missing.

Still, the 59-year-old artist felt compelled to contribute to the cause, something that might uplift the Surfside community amid so much anguish. That’s when he decided he would use his art to help translate pain into hope and resilience.

“What happened is a tragedy,” Marquez said Friday, as he brushed gray paint onto a canvass. “There is no way to get around this tragedy ... but

one thing we can grab on, I say, is hope.”

His hands, one gripping a paintbrush, swept across a pair of giant canvasses he hung on a fence near the collapsed building that has become an impromptu memorial.

Photos of those who have perished and those who remain missing hang from the fence among wilting bouquets and above a growing collection of items—candles, stuffed animals, a football and even shoes—that people

have left to honor and remember the victims.

In that memorial, Marquez sees a community in pain. Now and then, people come by to walk along the collection of memories. He sometimes sees people crying.

He hopes his huge work of art—each of the two panels measures 8 feet (2.4 meters) high and nearly 12 feet (3.6 meters) wide—will evoke other sentiments and serve as a tribute to the victims and for the grieving community.

## Friend invited on trip seizes control of agenda

**DEAR ABBY:** A few years ago, I asked a friend to accompany me to a concert for which I offered her a free ticket. (I paid \$150 for each one.) The original plan was to travel from New York state to Ohio, which would have been a three-day weekend. She responded with a grateful yes, then instantly changed the location to head in the opposite direction, planned out the entire trip, including the driving, and turned it into a five-day trip!

Well, it happened again. She’s a great travel companion, so I asked if she’d like to go to Nashville with me for a couple of days. It instantly changed to a week, and she invited other people to join us without discussing it with me. Within 90 minutes of bringing up the trip to her, it no longer includes Nashville! It’s like she waited for me to invite her to do something just so she could change it to something she wanted to do.

It really hurts that she oversteps my invitations. If I continue to plan the trip, including everything she wants to do, we will be gone for weeks. What can I say or do to make her see I really wanted to go to Nashville?

DERAILED IN NEW YORK

**DEAR DERAILED:** Here’s what to say to this presumptuous person:

**“The itinerary you have planned isn’t what I had in mind at all, so carry on by yourself. I am going to Nashville.” And then follow through. Bon voyage!**

**DEAR ABBY:** I currently live in my parents’ house with my 1-year-old son and husband. We live here not because of unfortunate circumstances or events, but because we help my elderly and disabled parents with things such as bills, rent, groceries, etc. Unfortunately, my lazy sister also lives under the same roof. She refuses to get a job or help around the house, and often creates extreme drama. Benign events seem to set her off.

I have told my parents on numerous occasions that I can’t deal with the madness, and either she goes or we do. But I end up feeling such immense guilt at the thought of my parents struggling with bills and daily rituals that I end up pushing those feelings of anger and resentment aside.

I don’t know what I should do. Should I free myself from my sister’s unhinged behavior and move out, or should I stick it out and suck it up in order to be a good daughter and help my parents?

ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

**DEAR ROCK:** The problem with issuing an ultimatum is that

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

for it to be effective, one has to be prepared to follow through.

**You haven’t done that, so your protestations aren’t taken seriously. You and your husband need to have one more talk with your parents and make clear that the current living situation isn’t working for you because it is too stressful. Tell them if the situation isn’t changed—and your sister at the very least finds a job and contributes—you and your husband will be moving. Then follow through.**

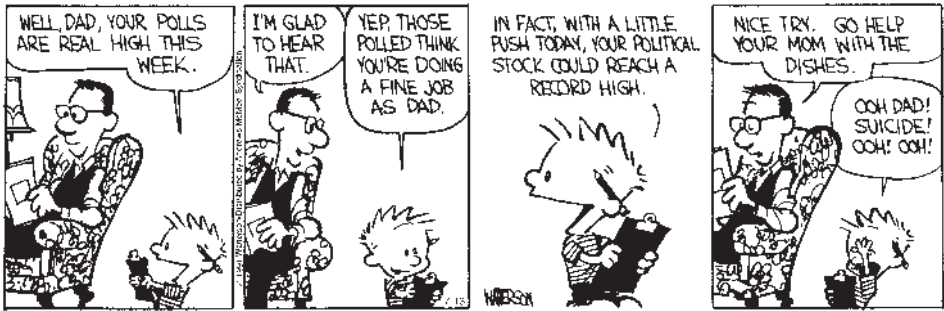
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



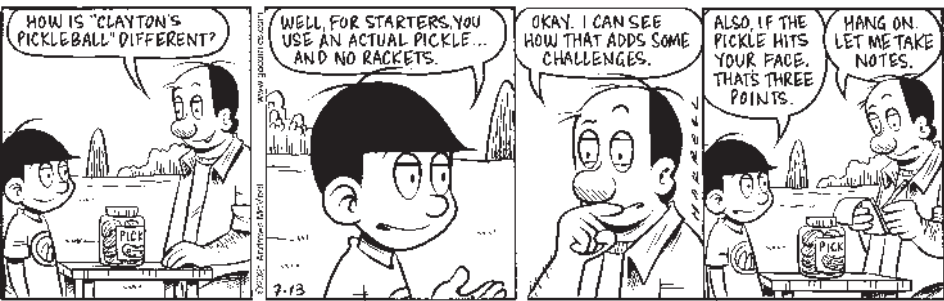
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



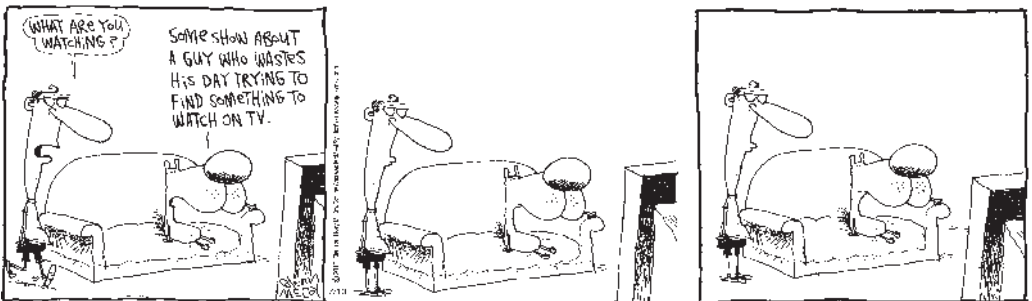
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

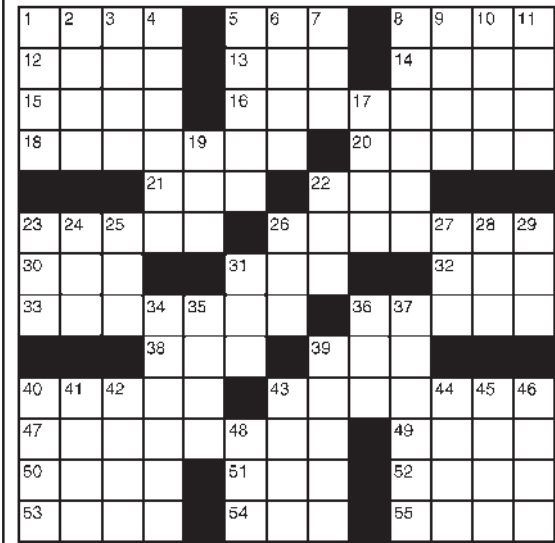
ACROSS 1 Harbor vessels 5 Female rabbit 8 Pedestal 12 "Rule, Britannia!" composer 13 Geological period 14 Russian river 15 Aspiring atty.'s exam 16 Chewy candies 18 Political — 20 Wooden box 21 Goof up 22 Salonga of "Miss Saigon" 23 Sits for a portrait 26 Garage alternative 30 Bird (Pref.) 31 Toss in 32 Gen- (baby boomer's kid)

33 Professions 36 Cowboy in "Toy Story" 38 CXII, halved 39 Asian language 40 Backbone 43 Capital of Wales 47 Set of bells 49 Chorus syllables 50 Astronaut Shepard 51 "Caught ya!" 52 "Zounds!" 53 Stereo alternative 54 Luau bowlful 55 Weeps

DOWN 1 Body powder 2 — Major 3 Growl 4 Parlor piece 5 Interior design 6 Algerian port 7 Off-pierced body part 8 Unjust verdict 9 Bailiwick 10 Pretzel seasoning 11 Differently 17 Computer brand 19 Hosp. sites 22 Young bloke 23 Lobbying org. 24 Eggs 25 — Lancelot 26 LPs' successors 27 Tic-tac-toe loser 28 Flushed 29 Attempt 31 "Exodus" hero 34 Weather-changing current 35 Daring Knieval 36 Armed conflict 37 A whole lot 39 Island porch 40 Swindle 41 — Alto, C.A. 42 Persia, today 43 Silver salmon 44 "Othello" villain 45 Exerciser's target 46 Crazy 48 Napkin's place

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ken Jeong, 52; Cheech Marin, 75; Harrison Ford, 79; Patrick Stewart, 81.

Happy Birthday: Be charming, helpful and open to suggestions, and the barricades will disintegrate. A positive attitude is infectious, and new ideas and beginnings will thrive in such an environment. The choice is yours to make. Step into the future with optimism, hope and faith. Strive to excel; don't let the past hold you back and harvest regret. Take ownership of what's to come. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 22, 25, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't limit the results you get because you take on too much. Channel your energy where it counts and will bring the highest return. Change begins with you, and your success depends on finishing what you start. Romance is on the rise. \*\*\*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spend more time gathering information and studying the possibilities and less time on what others are doing. Be a leader, not a follower, and you will avoid getting involved in something that isn't good for your ego or your health. \*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spend time fixing up your space and putting things in order. Don't let outside influences override what you know in your heart is best for you. Gauge your success by the happiness you achieve. Self-respect and love begin with you. \*\*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore the possibilities, associate with like-minded people and see what you can achieve. Your happiness is in your hands; choose

the path that makes you feel good about who you are and what you do to make the world a better place. \*\*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your best to make a difference. Make suggestions and offer your services, but don't make donations because someone makes you feel guilty. Your time and effort are as valuable as providing the cash. Do what feels right and works for you. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Discuss matters of concern openly and honestly. Taking charge will help you bring about positive change and gain respect from your peers. A professional incident will strike an emotional chord that will help you find alternative opportunities. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A disciplined approach to whatever you do will help you reach your goal. Take good care of your health and physical well-being. Staying in shape and avoiding situations that pose health risks or injuries are encouraged. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You've got all the right moves and mental capability to bring about positive lifestyle changes. Stop dreaming about what you want; begin the process that will lead to better days ahead. Expand your mind, plans and destiny. \*\*\*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotionally manipulative situations will be costly. Distance yourself from people who try to take advantage of you or who are misleading. Look inward and consider what will make you happy. Love who you are, and live life your way. \*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An unexpected change will take you by surprise and encourage financial gain. An investment, major move or upping your earning potential looks promising. Pay attention to detail; focus on what you can do to get ahead. Negotiate on your behalf. \*\*\*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do your best to get along with others. Look for common ground, and you will overcome setbacks. Put your skills to test, implement adjustments if you aren't up to speed with what's trending. Romance will enhance your love life. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Embrace opportunities. Engage in the process of bringing about positive change. Home improvements, discussions with loved ones and plans that entail social events or doing things you enjoy with people you love will brighten your day. Avoid physical risks. \*\*\*

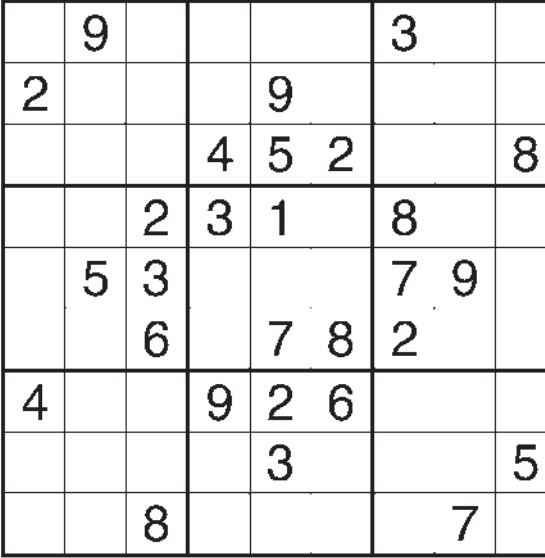
Birthday Baby: You're intelligent, curious and imaginative. You are compassionate and affectionate.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

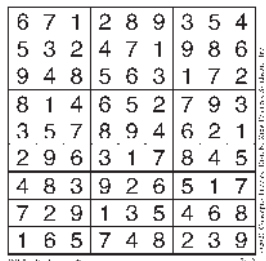
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 7/13 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S REGALE OUR FRIENDS Solution: 8 letters



© 2021 Arc News/McGraw-Hill Education www.wonderword.com 7/13 Amuse, Beguile, Bewitch, Captivate, Charm, Chat, Cheer, Client, Delight, Dine, Disport, Drink, Dude, Elegance, Enchant, Enthral, Entice, Family, Feast, Gladden, Gratify, Guest, Host, Intrigue, Jokes, Laughter, Nurture, Occupy, Party, Pleasant, Real, Relax, Serve, Storytelling, Sumptuous, Surprise, Tales, Talk, Task, Thrill, Tickle, Treats, Venue Yesterday's Answer: Policies To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.



# Giannis has 41, Suns' NBA Finals lead now 2-1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—When Giannis Antetokounmpo crashed to the court just two weeks ago with what appeared to be a serious knee injury, there was no guarantee he'd be back this season.

Maybe, he feared, he might even miss a year.

Antetokounmpo refused to stay down.

These Milwaukee Bucks just won't, either.

Antetokounmpo had 41 points, 13 rebounds and six assists in the NBA Finals' return to Milwaukee, and the Bucks pounded Phoenix 120-100 on Sunday night, cutting the Suns' lead to 2-1.

"We knew what kind of game this was going to be," Antetokounmpo said. "We knew that if we lose the game you're in the hole."

Instead, the Bucks started climbing out of one.

The first NBA Finals game in Milwaukee since 1974 went to the home team in a romp, with Antetokounmpo and the bigger Bucks overwhelming the smallish Suns to the tune of a 20-2 advantage in second-chance points.

Game 4 is Wednesday night, with the series guaranteed to go back to Phoenix afterward.

"I said it after last game. This team's not going to give in. They're going to keep playing all the way through," Suns star Devin Booker said. "So we have to bring that same effort that we had in the first two games and I think we'll be in good shape."

Antetokounmpo, who missed the last two games of the Eastern Conference finals because of a hyperextended left knee and was no sure thing to even be ready to start this series, followed up his 42-point, 12-rebound performance in Game 2 by doing it



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) dunks during the first half of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Phoenix Suns in Milwaukee, Sunday, July 11, 2021. AP

all again — even making his free throws this time.

Back in front of his own fans and free of the loud counts he's been hearing on the road, Antetokounmpo went 13 of 17 at the line. With two straight 40-point games in the NBA Finals, he's halfway to Michael Jordan's record — set against the Suns.

Chris Paul had 19 points and nine assists, but the Suns got next to nothing from his star backcourt mate. Booker shot 3 for 14, scoring just 10 points.

Jrue Holiday bounced back from two poor games in Phoenix with five 3-pointers and 21 points to get the Bucks going again onto the comeback trail,

having already overcome one 2-0 deficit in this postseason. Khris Middleton added 18.

"We all hate to lose and we know the ultimate goal," Holiday said.

Fans broke out their "Bucks in 6! Bucks in 6!" chant as Milwaukee started to pull away in the first half and then again as the benches emptied with the final minutes.

The Bucks are seeking their second NBA title and hadn't even played for one in 47 years. They grabbed control of this game by outscoring Phoenix 30-9 over the last nine minutes of the second quarter, then ending the third with a

16-0 finish.

Fans began making their way to the Deer District outside the arena in the middle of the afternoon, with so many fans decked out in green that Fiserv Forum felt more like Fiserv Forest.

They didn't get to cheer as much as they wanted early after a strong start by the Suns, who got 12 points from Deandre Ayton in the opening period. But Ayton was hampered by foul trouble and the Bucks soon ran past and kept right on going.

Antetokounmpo had seven straight points to finish a 9-0 run in the second that gave

Milwaukee a six-point lead, and after Phoenix scored four straight, the Bucks took off again on a 16-3 run.

Bobby Portis had the last two baskets in the half, finishing off a pretty fast break with a dunk for one of them, and it was 60-45 at the break.

The lead was 13 with under eight minutes left in the third when Cam Johnson took a pass near midcourt with an open path to the basket. P.J. Tucker tried to step in but was too late, and Johnson threw it down over him while drawing the foul.

That triggered a 14-5 run that cut it to 74-70 and seemed to have the Suns back into the game. Just as quickly, they

were out of it again.

Holiday made two 3-pointers in the next minute and Milwaukee pushed the lead back to nine, and by the end of the third it had ballooned to 98-76.

The Bucks, who lost the first two games against Brooklyn in the second round, avoided falling into a 3-0 hole from which no NBA team has escaped.

They limited the Suns to nine 3-pointers after Phoenix hit 20 in its Game 2 victory.

Ayton and Jae Crowder each had 18 points for the Suns. But Mikal Bridges, who had a career playoff-high 27 in Game 2, took only four shots and had four points.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Chris Paul calls Deandre Ayton the anchor of the Phoenix Suns' defense.

With Ayton on the bench for much of the second half, that defense sank.

The 6-foot-11 center's inability to avoid foul trouble enabled Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks to have their way in a 120-100 Game 3 victory over the Suns on Sunday night.

"He's a big part of our team," said Paul, the Suns' All-Star point guard. "He's the anchor of our defense. I feel like any (opposing) team would love for him not to be on the court offensively and defensively."

Phoenix also missed Devin Booker's production, as he shot 3 of 14 and collected just 10 points after scoring 27 in Game 1 and 31 in Game 2.

Ayton's absence showed just how big his presence on

## Ayton's foul trouble limits Suns in Game 3 loss vs Bucks

the floor is for the Suns.

The No. 1 overall pick in the 2018 draft scored 16 points in the first 14 ½ minutes of Game 3 but picked up his fourth foul with 10:25 left in the third quarter and sat out the rest of the period. By the time he returned, the Bucks owned a 22-point lead.

While Ayton wasn't made available to reporters after the game, his teammates emphasized how much they missed him.

"It was big-time because they crashed the glass so hard and they're big and they really emphasized physicality this game," Suns forward Cam Johnson said. "Deandre does a really good job of bringing that presence to our paint, rebounding the ball, being physical, so it's tough to have him in foul

trouble, for sure."

Phoenix still owns a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 series with Game 4 Wednesday night in Milwaukee. But the Suns must find a way to slow down Antetokounmpo, who has collected at least 40 points and 10 rebounds in each of the last two games.

That's tough enough to do when Ayton's on the floor. He even had trouble Sunday night trying to help out against the two-time MVP without drawing fouls. And when Ayton's been on the bench in foul trouble, Antetokounmpo has done virtually whatever he wants.

"It's tough, man," Paul said. "Giannis coming at your full speed like a running back. He's trying to put his hands up, but it's tough."

After scoring just 10 points in the Suns' Game 2 victory,

Ayton shot 6 of 7 in the first quarter Sunday. Ayton's 16 quick points helped the Suns grab a 36-30 lead early in the second period.

But he scored just two more points the rest of the game, finishing with 18 and nine rebounds in less than 25 minutes.

"He just had a good game going, but the foul trouble didn't allow for him to continue it," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

Ayton had done a good job of avoiding foul trouble this postseason up until Sunday. Williams said he wasn't going to complain about officiating but noted that Antetokounmpo had more free-throw attempts (17) than Phoenix's entire team (16).

"They were aggressive and we have to give them credit," Williams said. "I'm not going to sit

here and complain about a team that is aggressive. But we have to understand how the refs are calling the game and then adjust to that. There's a ton of physicality in the game, for sure, but as far as teaching him, we got to look at the film and see where he can have better body position and pick up some charges when they present themselves."

Once Ayton picked up that fourth foul early in the third quarter, the Suns did some experimenting with their lineup due to their lack of size.

The Suns already are playing without forward Dario Saric, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament in Game 1. Forward Torrey Craig played but didn't seem to be at full strength after injuring his right knee in Game 2.

After 7-foot Frank Kamin-

sky was ineffective, the Suns briefly turned to Abdel Nader, a 6-5 forward who played a total of one minute in the first two games of the finals. They had 6-6 forward Jae Crowder playing center at times.

It worked — but the success didn't last.

The Suns made 12 of their first 14 shots in the third quarter to cut a 15-point halftime deficit to four. But once they cooled off, the Bucks pulled away.

Milwaukee scored the final 16 points of the third quarter to grab a 98-76 lead. The Bucks ended up outscoring the Suns 20-2 in second-chance points.

"We have enough bodies to get that job done if someone gets in foul trouble," Crowder said. "But tonight it definitely caught us off guard and we had to go throw a lot of different things at them, and it led to us scrambling and the offensive rebounds."



# Altuve's 3-run homer in 9th caps Astros' rally past Yankees



**HOUSTON** (AP)—Thousands of fans left Minute Maid Park with replica No. 27 Jose Altuve jerseys from a giveaway on Sunday.

The Houston Astros star didn't make it off the field with his.

Altuve hit a three-run homer to cap a startling six-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning, getting his shirt yanked off in a frenzied celebration and lifting the Astros over the New York Yankees 8-7.

"It was a miracle," manager Dusty Baker said.

The Astros had been shut out by the Yankees the previous two games, highlighted by ace Gerrit Cole's three-hitter in a 4-0 win on Saturday night.

But in a series where the teams took turns trolling each other after lingering ill will over the years—including Yankees star Aaron Judge seeming to mock Altuve—the Astros and their dynamic second baseman had the final say.

"It was pretty amazing how Altuve did it again," catcher Martin Maldonado said. "He's a guy with a big heart and is the face of this team. He got to the plate we knew something big was going to happen."

Big league teams are 493-2 this season with a lead of at least four runs going to the ninth — the Yankees wasted an 8-4 advantage in an 11-8 defeat to the Los Angeles Angels on June 30, making this the first season the Yankees twice lost games when leading by four runs entering the ninth.

New York led 7-2 after a three-run homer by Gary Sanchez in the eighth inning and was poised for a sweep before the Astros broke loose and dealt the Yankees another aching last-inning loss.

"It's the ultimate gut punch," manager Aaron Boone said. "You've got a five-run lead in the ninth against a great team with a chance to earn the sweep and they come back to win. We've got some things to get better at and make sure all hands are where they need to be."

## Marlins 7, Braves 4

In Miami, Pablo López set a major league record by striking out the first nine batters to start a game, pitching Miami past Atlanta.

The 25-year-old López (5-5) broke the mark of eight straight strikeouts to begin a game set by Jim Deshaies in 1986 and matched by Jacob deGrom in 2014 and German Marquez in 2018.

López threw 30 of his first 35 pitches for strikes.

Jesus Aguilar hit a three-run homer in the first inning off Ian Anderson (5-5) as the Marlins ended a three-game



losing streak. Jesus Sanchez tripled, doubled and singled and Miguel Rojas had three hits for Miami.

## Reds 3, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Nick Castellanos hit a tiebreaking two-run single off All-Star closer Josh Hader with two outs in the ninth inning, and Cincinnati beat Milwaukee.

The Reds took three of four in the series to pull within four games of the NL Central-leading Brewers.

Hader (3-2) came in to pitch the ninth after he surrendered a game-winning homer to Eugenio Suárez on Saturday night. He hit Suárez on Sunday, and Kyle Farmer followed with a pinch-hit single.

After a strikeout, Hader walked Jonathan India to load the bases before Castellanos laced a hit up the middle.

Ryan Hendrix (5-1), the fourth of five Reds relievers, got two outs for the win. Josh Osich worked a perfect ninth for his first career save in his 246th appearance.

## White Sox 7, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Adam Engel hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning and Chicago completed a season sweep of Baltimore.

Andrew Vaughn homered twice for the White Sox, who have won five in a row and 10 of 13 overall. Chicago leads the AL Central by eight games over Cleveland.

The White Sox went 7-0 against Baltimore this season.

Pinch-hitter Trey Mancini's two-out, two-homer run in the Orioles ninth off Chicago closer Liam Hendriks (4-2)

made it 4-all.

Yoán Moncada led off the Chicago 10th with a walk to join automatic runner Tim Anderson on base. Tyler Wells (2-1) retired the next two batters, but Engel went deep to left-center to make it 7-4.

Matt Foster recorded two outs for his first career save.

## Phillies 5, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Ronald Torreyes hit a three-run homer and Philadelphia used six pitchers to beat Boston.

The Phillies turned to the bullpen after losing scheduled starter Aaron Nola to COVID-19 contact tracing.

Torreyes had three of Philadelphia's six hits.

Cristopher Sánchez (1-0) got the win after taking over in the second inning, and Ranger Suárez finished it, striking out two in the ninth to earn his second save.

Philadelphia scored five runs, four earned, off Nick Pivetta (7-4), who worked four innings against the team that traded him to Boston last summer.

## Pirates 6, Mets 5

In New York, Wilmer Difo's tiebreaking single in the ninth inning capped Pittsburgh's rally from an early five-run deficit to beat New York.

The NL East-leading Mets jumped out to a 5-0 lead against Chase De Jong in the first on a two-run homer by Francisco Lindor and a three-run shot by Michael Conforto.

Rodolfo Castro and Michael Perez hit back-to-back homers in the fifth. Castro hit a two-run homer in the sixth.

In the ninth, Edwin Diaz (3-3) gave up an RBI single to John Nogowski, and Difo followed with his run-scoring hit down the third base line.

David Bednar (2-1) allowed two hits in a scoreless eighth. Richard Rodriguez worked around a leadoff single by Brandon Nimmo in the ninth to earn his 12th save.

## Blue Jays 3, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Danny Jansen homered, Robbie Ray took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Toronto ended Tampa Bay's six-game winning streak.

The left-hander's bid ended with one out when Yandy Díaz was awarded a double after a fan reached over the left-field fence and tried to catch his drive. Ray (7-4) allowed one hit and one walk, while striking out 11 in seven innings.

Jordan Romano gave up Brandon Lowe's solo homer and a single to Díaz before getting his seventh save.

Rich Hill (6-4) gave up three runs and four hits in five innings.

## Athletics 4, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Matt Olson hit two of Oakland's four homers and Chris Bassitt allowed one run in seven innings in a win over Texas.

Jed Lowrie and Sean Murphy hit back-to-back homers in the second inning for the A's, who won consecutive games for the first time since mid-June and took two of three at Texas.

Bassitt (10-2) gave up four hits, struck out three and walked one. Lou Trivino stranded two runners in the

ninth inning for his 14th save in 16 opportunities.

Kolby Allard (2-6) allowed all four homers, striking out three and walking none.

## Twins 12, Tigers 9, 10 innings

In Minnesota, Jorge Polanco hit a game-ending three-run homer in the 10th inning, and Minnesota completed a four-game sweep of Detroit.

Polanco hit a full-count pitch from Derek Holland (1-2) to left field for his 12th homer of the season. Polanco had three hits and five RBIs, while Alex Kiriloff and Max Kepler each had two hits and drove in two runs.

Catcher Jake Rogers had given the Tigers a 9-8 lead with a grand slam in the top of the ninth, but Twins catcher Ben Rortvedt tied it with a solo shot in the bottom half. Akil Baddoo homered and drove in three runs for the Tigers.

Tyler Duffey (1-2) pitched a scoreless 10th for the win. Gregory Soto (4-2) took the loss.

## Giants 3, Nationals 1

In San Francisco, Kevin Gausman worked six-plus innings of one-run ball and Curt Casali hit a three-run homer as San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of Washington.

San Francisco heads into the All-Star break with the best record in the majors at 57-32.

Gausman (9-3) struck out nine and held Washington to four hits. Erick Fedde (4-6) took the loss.

## Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Los Angeles, Max Muncy

Houston Astros' Jose Altuve, right, celebrates his winning three-run home run with Yuli Gurriel, left, and Michael Brantley during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Sunday, July 11, 2021, in Houston.

slugged a three-run, walk-off homer in the ninth inning, rallying Los Angeles past Arizona.

The Dodgers tied the game at 4 with three runs in the eighth, then scored more to complete the comeback a day after their historic 22-1 win over the D-backs.

Kenley Jansen (1-2) pitched the ninth for the win.

J.B. Bukauskas (1-2) took the loss. Arizona got home runs from Stephen Vogt and Daulton Varsho.

## Rockies 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Chris Owings hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning, Jon Gray had another strong start and Colorado beat San Diego, which lost another starting pitcher to injury.

The Rockies won in Bud Black's 2,000th career game as a manager.

Owings' homer off Craig Stammen (3-2) made a winner of Gray (6-6), who held the Padres to one run and three hits in six innings, struck out seven and walked three.

Jhoulys Chacin pitched two perfect innings and Daniel Bard pitched the ninth for his fourth straight save and 14th overall.

The Padres lost rookie left-hander Ryan Weathers to an apparent knee injury in the third inning.

## Angels 7, Mariners 1

In Seattle, David Fletcher had four hits and four RBIs to extend his hitting streak to 24 games, and Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Fletcher homered in the third inning, drove in two runs with a single in the fifth and added another RBI in the seventh to snap the Angels' two-game losing streak. The second baseman finished 4 for 5.

Shohei Ohtani went 2 for 4 with a double and a walk.

José Suarez (4-2) allowed three hits over five innings to end Seattle's three-game winning streak. He struck out four and allowed an unearned run on Ty France's first-inning sacrifice fly. Raisel Iglesias picked up his 19th save.

Yohan Ramirez (0-1), one of seven Seattle pitchers in a bullpen game, took the loss.

Fletcher's hitting streak is the longest in the majors since 2019, when the New York Mets' Wilson Ramos hit safely in 26 straight.



# Djokovic wins Wimbledon to tie Federer, Nadal

**WIMBLEDON, England** (AP)—The Wimbledon final was locked up at a set apiece after nearly 2 1/2 hours, and Novak Djokovic's bid for a record-tying 20th Grand Slam title was at a critical juncture, when he faced two break points while thousands in the full-capacity crowd at Centre Court chanted his opponent's first name.

Bothered, perhaps, by the challenge he was facing between the lines Sunday, and, perhaps, by the support being thrown behind Matteo Berrettini, and, perhaps, by the weight of the milestone he was pursuing, Djokovic shrugged all of that off and steeled himself, as he's done so many times at so many moments on so many stages.

On each of the next two points, Djokovic, known for his baseline supremacy, charged forward. On each, Berrettini's passing attempt found the net. After the second, Djokovic stared into the stands and pointed to his ear, then waved his racket. He got what he wanted; a chorus of his nickname broke out: "No-le! No-le!" Two points later, when he grabbed the game with a 118 mph ace, Djokovic put his racket behind an ear, heard more noise, nodded and smiled.

An hour later, the match was finished — Djokovic won 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 — and so, too, was his stated desire to equal the total of major championships collected by his biggest rivals, Roger Federer (who reached 20 in 2018) and Rafael Nadal (who did it last year). No other male tennis player has more than 14.

Djokovic, of course, wants more.

"I consider myself best, and

I believe that I am the best, otherwise I wouldn't be talking confidently about winning Slams and making history," said Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia who is ranked No. 1 and has spent more weeks in that top spot than any other man. "But whether I'm the greatest of all time or not, I leave that debate to other people."

It is a popular topic, certainly. And every member of the so-called Big Three has his supporters. This season might tilt the balance in Djokovic's favor in the minds of those yet to be convinced.

Already the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win the first three major tournaments in a year, Djokovic will take aim at a true calendar Grand Slam at the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 30. Only two men — Don Budge in the 1930s and Laver twice in the 1960s — have gone 4-for-4.

"I'm going to definitely give it a shot," Djokovic told the Centre Court crowd during the trophy presentation. "I'm in a great form and obviously playing well. ... So let's keep it going."

He earned a third consecutive championship at the All England Club and sixth overall. Those go alongside nine at the Australian Open, three at the U.S. Open and two at the French Open.

"I have to pay a great tribute to Rafa and Roger. They are legends. Legends of our sport. They are the two most important players that I ever faced in my career," Djokovic said. "They are, I think, the reason that I am where I am today. They've helped me realize what I need to do in order to improve, to get stronger mentally, physically, tactically."

Federer and Nadal both

tainly had our own issues about our Games so we should have some understanding of where they are coming from," he said.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation presi-

of results is right at my estimation. It was as expected, easy. I'm never satisfied about several Tsunami swimmers' time, but this time I let them swim as test swimming, so this time only it's OK," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

As the organizer of the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series, SSC coach Richard Sikkell couldn't have hoped for a better turnout after more than a year sabbatical of competitive swimming.

"I was pleasantly surprised with the 90-plus swimmers that turned out for the ocean swim. I am hoping we go over 100 for the next race. We unfortunately had to turn a few



tweeted their congratulations.

This was Djokovic's 30th major final — among men, only Federer has played more, 31 — and the first for Berrettini, a 25-year-old from Italy who was seeded No. 7.

"Hopefully," Berrettini said, "it's not going to be my last one."

It was a big sporting day in London for his country: Italy's soccer team faced England at Wembley Stadium in the European Championship final at night.

With Marija Cicak officiating, the first female chair umpire for a men's final at a tournament that began in 1877, play began as the sun made a rare appearance during the fortnight, the sky visible in between the clouds.

The opening game featured signs of edginess from both, but especially Djokovic, whose pair of double-faults contributed to the half-dozen combined unforced errors. He faced a break point but staved it off.

"Definitely," Djokovic ac-

knowledged, "felt slightly more nervous than I usually feel."

He forces foes to work so hard to win every point, let alone a game, a set, a match.

Indeed, this one could have been over much sooner: Djokovic led 4-1 in the first set, 4-0 in the second and 3-1

to earn a medal in next year Pacific Mini Games to qualify. "We would love to but we need to get past the 2022 Micro Games first to earn our spot," he said.

people down because we only allowed online registration and no race day registration so we could keep the tight schedule we did and start and finish all the races on time," he said. As far as the performance of the swimmers, Sikkell said however they performed he's just glad to see SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers sharing the beach again and swimming competitively.

"I am pleased with the performance of all the swimmers. First of all it is good to see the camaraderie and the support that the swimmers show each other regardless of their club affiliation. In the end, it is about promoting the sport

of swimming while we have a little friendly competition. Pushing each other to train harder and swim faster.

Results of the 20m for beginners, 50m for intermediate, 100m for advanced, 500m open, 1,000m open, and the 1,000m World Championship qualifier will be published in the next issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.

The 1,000m World Championship qualifier will chose four swimmers (two from SSC and two from Tsunami Saipan) that will represent the CNMI in the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

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AP  
Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the winner's trophy as he poses for photographers after he defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the men's singles final on day thirteen of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Sunday, July 11, 2021.

rettini's best efforts and won the fans over, too. When it was over, Djokovic dropped to his back on the turf, arms and legs splayed, showered by cheers. Moments later, he rose, threw his head back, spread his arms and basked in the joint appreciation of his accomplishment.

As Berrettini put it: "He's writing the history of this sport, so he deserves all the credit."

It was an entertaining final, with some magical points. On one, Berrettini conjured up a 'tweener lob that Djokovic tracked down with his own-back-to-the-court flick that wound up in the net. On another, Djokovic slid into a keep-the-point-going defensive backhand and, after Berrettini replied with a drop shot, sprinted forward for a winner. Djokovic raised his index finger — as if to remind everyone, "I'm No. 1!" — and Berrettini flipped his racket end over end, caught it and smiled.

## STADIUM

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be operated remotely from mobile devices such as a laptop or mobile phone.

"Right now, the lights will be on from 6:45pm to 10pm daily and NMSA will make adjustments depending on the sunset schedule," Sablan said.

The purchase and installation of the lighting fixtures at the Oleai track and field facility was made possible through a grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. The grant application was initiated by the Saipan Mayor's Office. Sablan said two additional metal poles with the same floodlight system will be installed at the track through the Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded improvement projects.

"The NMSA thanks the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for facilitating the funding for the replacement of the lights at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Saipan Mayor's Office for taking the first steps to gain funding for the project," the NMSA executive director said.

Sablan added that NMSA is working with the CNMI Public Assistance Office and

other agencies to fast-track the remaining improvement projects at the Oleai Sports Complex to give athletes enough time to prepare for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The CNMI's representatives in athletics, badminton, weightlifting, and baseball competitions will need to utilize the facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex to train for the Mini Games that Saipan will be hosting from June 17 to 25 next year. Golf, beach volleyball, triathlon, tennis, and va'a are the other sports included in the program for the Mini Games.

Through the more than \$3-million disaster-relief grant from FEMA, NMSA said the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field, Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field, and the track oval will also undergo repairs and improvements. Air-conditioning units will also be installed at the Ada Gym, while there is a proposal to expand the grandstand at the track facility.

More and bigger improvement projects are also expected to start after next year's Pacific Mini Games following the Economic Development Administration's awarding of a \$21.2-million grant to Commonwealth last month for the CNMI Sports and Cultural Tourism Enhancement Project. (PR)

## NMSA

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players on board. We'll just have to respect their situation. We here in the CNMI have cer-

## ISAIAH

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19:12:9 and 21:01.2, respectively, while it was all Tsunami Saipan among the girls as Julia Jinang and Ayumi Obligacion completed the Top 3 with times of 22:40:4 and 24:27:4, respectively.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said he was happy with his wards' return to competitive swimming, but admitted that some of them can still improve in their performance.

"We haven't practiced in the ocean for over a year and half, so I was worried a little about their performance in the open water race. I think the ranking





Giannis has 41,  
Suns' NBA Finals  
lead now 2-1

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Djokovic wins  
Wimbledon to tie  
Federer, Nadal

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Isaiah, Asaka top 1,500m open water swim



By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Isaiah Aleksenko and Asaka Litulumar won the longest race in Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series held last Saturday in the waters off the Civic Center beach in Oleai.

Aleksenko and Litulumar, both of Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan, topped the boys and girls division of the 1,500m open water swim with times of 18:23:1 and 21:23:9, respectively.

Aleksenko, an incoming sophomore at Marianas High School, felt relieved that he's finally back in the water competing at a high level after more than a year of no meets due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was different because I wasn't swimming competitively for a long time. I'm pretty happy with my time. It was good considering [the long lay-off]. I'm very happy that swimming is back and that means we

can go back to swimming competitively and go to meets off-island," the 15-year-old said.

Litulumar, for her part, seconded Aleksenko's observation on their return to competitive swimming.

"It was a nice feeling because we never felt like this for a long time. It's nice to be back again. I'm surprised I won and it's nice to have my hard work pay off," said the 13-year-old Hopwood Middle School student.

Tsunami Saipan's Kean James Pajarilla and SSC's Anthony Jacob Deleon Guerrero came in second and third after Aleksenko with times of

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RICKY CASTRO/MARK RABAGO  
Isaiah Aleksenko in action in last Saturday's 1,500m swim in Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series held last Saturday in the waters off the Civic Center beach in Oleai. Inset, Asaka Litulumar, left, poses with second and third placers Julia Jinang and Ayumi Obligacion. Also in photo are SSC coach Richard Sikkell and Northern Marianas Swimming Federation vice president John Hirsh, left.

## Stadium floodlights installed at Oleai track



The lighting fixtures on the two existing metal poles at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field oval are now operational, providing the community a much safer and more accessible facility for sports competitions and health and wellness activities.

Carline Sablan, executive director of the Northern Marianas Sports Association, which manages the facility, said floodlights for the two existing metal poles were installed at the sports complex recently, with one located northwest and the other southeast of the track and field. A floodlight is a broad-beamed, high-intensity artificial light used to illuminate stadiums.

The lighting fixtures are similar to the ones at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. They are energy-efficient LED lights and can

**See STADIUM on Page 19**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Workers install the lighting fixtures on the metal pole located southeast of the Oleai track and field facility early this month.

## NMASA: '23 Pacific Games postponement a challenge

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The Pacific Games Council's decision to acquiesce to the postponement of the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands will conflict with the school calendar of the student-athletes of the CNMI, according to the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

"This decision presents a challenge for our student-athletes as they not only will miss classes in order to participate in the Games in the Solomon Islands. They may have to arrange to take exams before the Games or make up for them afterwards," said NMASA executive director Carlene Sablan.

Last week, the council approved the Solomon Islands' request to postpone the kick-out of the quadrennial event from the original July 16-29 2023 schedule to Nov. 19-Dec. 2, 2023. It cited delays brought about by the COVID-19 to the start of its venue construction program, which includes the \$53-million national stadium in Honiara that

has a capacity for 10,000 visitors with 1,000 VIP seats.

Several sports federations in the CNMI queried by *Saipan Tribune* said they are still willing to send their athletes despite the change of dates for the 2023 Pacific Games.

"As in previous years, yes it's our indentation to send athletes to the Solomons in 2023. It will be quite challenge with the new dates being late in the year. In our region it's normally cross country season. But of course with the current situation we just need to find a way to adapt to changes," said Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Rob-in Sapong.

He added NMA always welcomes competition whether local or off-island, especially since their athletes have been on a holding pattern this past year and a half due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We also plan to send a team to the Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands in 2022. In addition, we also plan to send a delegation the same



**Sablan**

year at the World Athletics Championship in Oregon, which is from July 15 to July 24, 2022. It's good to see opportunities for competition but the main challenge will be traveling around

the region with limited daily flights" said Sapong.

For Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president and many-time CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race, CNMI sports federations should take it one at a time—in this case concentrate on next year's Pacific Mini Games in the CNMI and the Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands later in the year—as well as extend some sympathy to the hosting nation.

"I think that COVID-19 makes us need to be understanding and just roll with the punches. Right now my focus is on 100% effort toward summer 2022. We'll see what happens after that. Obviously those dates could be a problem for teams with college

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